

Lebanon demands guarantees on refugees

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon demanded Wednesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its peace pact with Israel guarantee the right of return of all Palestinian refugees and said that it would hold the PLO responsible. The Lebanese government said it would not accept the PLO-Israeli pact, which was agreed last month, until it guarantees the right of return of an estimated 350,000 Palestinians trapped in refugee camps in Lebanon.

"The Palestinian side has to ask for a clear point in any agreement (with Israel) to guarantee the right of return of the refugees," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Boucar said Wednesday. "We ask the Palestinian side to take the responsibility for any agreement not guaranteeing the right of return," he added. In the occupied West Bank, Faisal Husseini, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, made it clear on Wednesday for the first time that refugees from the 1948 Israeli-Arab war can no longer expect to return to their old homes in Israel. "You will be citizens of the new state of Palestine, the state that will have the borders of 1967, where a new page will be turned and where you will live in dignity with all your rights," Mr. Husseini told refugees at a camp on the edge of Nabulus. But most of the 350,000 Palestinian refugees stuck in camps in Lebanon fled in 1948 when the Jewish state was created.

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Cuban envoy arrives with message

AMMAN (Petra) — Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Pedro Bereto arrived in Amman Wednesday as part of a tour of the region. Mr. Bereto, special representative of Cuban President Fidel Castro, told the Jordan News agency, Petra, that he was carrying a message from the Cuban president to His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Bereto said he will hold discussions with Jordanian officials on ways of enhancing bilateral relations. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Jordan's support of the Cuban cause in the United Nations. He was received upon arrival by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jawad Anani and the Cuban (non-resident) ambassador in Jordan. In a meeting between the Cuban deputy minister and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, said the Jordanian government was ready to cooperate with the Cuban government in trade through opening new market for Jordanian products. Dr. Fariz said that the two sides agreed to exchange delegations and experience in the agricultural field. Jordanian imports from Cuba in 1991 reached JD 3.9 million compared with JD 395,000 last year. Jordan did not export anything to Cuba. Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jaad Al Anani also held talks with the Cuban minister.

Talal Hassan, Yemeni envoy hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday met with his Yemeni counterpart Mohammad Salem Bassam at the Foreign Ministry and reviewed recent developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process. Mr. Hassan stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process, Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace formula, and Israeli withdrawal of all occupied territories including Jerusalem "without which no solution can be achieved." The minister reaffirmed Jordan's support to the Palestinians and its respect to the Palestinian independent decision. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them.

Saudis to help Palestinians — Hurd

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to help finance Palestinian development plans under the autonomy deal for the Israeli-occupied territories, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said here Wednesday. "The Saudis have accepted a contribution," he told reporters at the end of a one-day visit to the kingdom. "They have accepted that the agreement needs support, especially from Arab countries." Mr. Hurd had talks with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal on the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Gulf and bilateral ties.

Campbell calls Oct. 25 elections

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's general election will be held Monday, Oct. 25, Prime Minister Kim Campbell announced Wednesday. The poll, Canada's 35th general election, will involve election battles in all 295 ridings (constituencies) that make up the house of commons and thousands of kilometers of traveling for the party political leaders. Currently, Ms. Campbell's Progressive Conservative Party (Tories) has an absolute majority in the house, with 154 seats and she hopes to lead her party to an unprecedented third consecutive victory by distancing herself from the Tory government of the past nine years.

U.S. warns Somalis

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Helicopters of the U.S. rapid action force in Somalia dropped leaflets over southern Mogadishu Wednesday warning Somalis to stay off their roofs at night or risk being shot. The leaflets distributed over several districts of the southern part of the capital warned civilians to remain in their homes and not to climb on their roofs during night time changes of gunfire. Pilots and soldiers on board the helicopters were unable to distinguish between friendly civilians and enemy gunmen, the leaflets added. "So it is possible that if you climb on your roof you will be shot at," the leaflets said.

19 killed in Johannesburg attack

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Nineteen people were killed Wednesday night when a gang of 10 gunmen opened fire on commuters waiting to catch minibuses in Wadeville industrial area east of Johannesburg, police said. Twenty-two people were wounded, police said. More than 10,500 people have been killed in political violence since President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid in February 1990.

Lebanese premier seeks Saudi cash

DUBAI (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, a long-time associate of the Saudi royal family, was trying to persuade the kingdom on Wednesday to contribute up to \$200 million towards a Lebanese development fund. Mr. Hariri, who is touring Arab states with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid to follow up on pledges to grant Beirut \$500 million, has so far secured about \$220 million. League officials who attended a meeting with King Fahd on Tuesday in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah told Reuters by telephone Mr. Hariri was due to discuss details of a Saudi contribution with other Saudi officials later Wednesday.

Regent reaffirms support for independent Palestinian choice

Crown Prince spells out Jordan's concerns over some of the agreed-upon provisions

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday reiterated Jordan's support for the independent Palestinian choice and said Jordan should guard its national interests.

In two separate meetings with Jordanian politicians and with the local press, Prince Hassan described the Gaza-Jericho accord as a historic breakthrough for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but called for an objective assessment of the agreement and its implications.

He dismissed suggestions that Jordan's position was dictated by its apprehension from the independent Palestinian national identity and criticised arguments, both in support or against the accord, that emanate from such fears.

"Any attempt to interpret the concept of Jordanian rejection or promotion of the Jericho-Gaza first (option) on the basis of Jordan's fear of the independence of the Palestinian national identity is a futile attempt to take the Jordanian position out of its context," Prince Hassan said.

The Prince was referring to

press commentaries and statements that imply that Jordan's acceptance or rejection of the Israeli-Palestinian accord is based on either Jordan's interests in disassociating itself from the Palestinian cause or fear from a forced Israeli transfer of Palestinians to the East Bank.

The Regent argued that Jordan could not harbour such fears since it has contributed to the independence of the Palestinian national identity starting from its acceptance of the 1974 Arab summit resolution that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and finally by declaring its disengagement from the West Bank in 1988.

He stressed, however, that Jordan had taken those historic steps to pave the way for Palestinian sovereignty and not to give Israel the chance to assert its own control or sovereignty over the occupied Arab territories.

The Prince gave a relatively detailed analysis of the accord, including its potential negative implications, but said that Jordan was not judging the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the

basis of scenarios about the final outcome but according to the agreed-upon provisions.

He said that the accord, as a first step towards Palestinian self-determination, is consistent and an extension of Jordan's policies. But he voiced concern that the accord could lead to an Israeli rearrangement of its colonisation of the occupied territories.

During the two meetings the Prince spelled out a number of reservations regarding many aspects of the accord that could have serious repercussions on Jordan, the Palestinians' national rights and the status of Jerusalem.

Some of the major aspects in the Israeli-Palestinian accord of concern to Jordan, according to the Prince, are the following:

The uncertainty of the final outcome, especially that a new government led by the hardline Likud Party could either undermine the accord or turn what is supposed to be an interim period into a permanent one.

The provisions in the accord, particularly the annexes concerning Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation that define



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets with the local press Wednesday (Petra photo).

regional cooperation.

— Concern that Israel will exploit Jordan's relinquishing of its responsibility over the West Bank in its favour. "Jordan relinquished its responsibility in

favour of Palestinian sovereignty and not for Israeli sovereignty."

— Issues that were originally agreed upon to be dealt with at the multilateral talks, have not now become part of the bilateral

ers will try to exploit the accord to impose a de facto fragmentation of the West Bank in spite of the accord's reaffirmation of the integral unity of the occupied territories.

Reiterating Jordan's respect of the independent Palestinian decision the Prince argued that did not mean that Jordan was not directly concerned with the Israeli-Palestinian relationship.

"We are directly concerned in the Israeli-Palestinian relations ... stability in Gaza is of concern to us ... we do not raise (the issue) out of illusions about a mass (Palestinian) immigration, as some have put it ... but because Jordan plays a nationalist and vital role ... thus it cannot ignore instability or chaos in the neighbouring areas," the Prince said.

"... Jordanian national security dictates that development should be regional ... i.e. directed to develop the whole region," he said, expressing indirect concern that the current U.S. and European campaigns to raise funds for the proposed Palestinian autonomy without taking into consideration the region as a whole.

PLO decision-makers set to approve self-rule deal

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leader, Yasser Arafat was expected to win the approval of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) decision-making body for his deal with Israel at a crucial meeting scheduled to begin late Wednesday.

Palestinian officials said the meeting would also focus on documents on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, with Mr. Arafat expected to make an announcement either during or after the meeting.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would follow with Israel's recognition, according to Israeli officials.

Mr. Arafat will be asking the 18-member Executive Committee to rubber stamp the deal for autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

His task in clinching the deal has already been made easier by the resignation of two members of the Executive Committee, support from the Central Committee of the PLO's largest group Patah, as well as backing from Jordan, the Gulf Arab states and Egypt.

But hardliners inside the PLO are still opposed to the accord.

A Reuters survey showed that 10 out of 13 Executive Committee members expected to attend the meeting would vote "yes" with only two casting "no" ballots. One was undecided.

Three Executive Committee members are expected to boycott the meeting. One resigned last week and another is expected to miss the event for medical reasons.

According to the survey, carried out among a majority of the members of their aides and grouped under the various PLO factions in the committee, the "yes" votes will be cast by Mr. Arafat, Parouk Kaddoumi, Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo, Samir Ghosheh, Suleiman Nabaj, Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, Jamal Al Sourani, Yasser Amir and Jawid Al Ghossein.

Those expected to stay away from the meeting were: Tayseer Khaled, Abdul Rahim Mallouh and Shafiq Al Hout (all three boycotting), and Bishop Elias Khouri (ill-health). Those expected to vote "no" were Abdullah Hontar and Mahmoud Ismail. Ali Isbak has resigned. Mr. Hout has announced his resignation but not tendered it.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Tunis from Cairo. He stopped over in Egypt on a flight from Oman, where he won backing for the peace deal from Sultan Qaboos in his first trip to the Gulf Arab countries in three years.

Sultan Qaboos met Mr. Arafat to "give his support and blessing to the accord," the Omani news agency said.

The PLO leader told reporters

the backing of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was "a good start for lifting the obstacles in relations between Arab countries and to close ranks."

On Monday, the six Gulf Arab states at a meeting in Riyadh pledged support for the autonomy accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing for the autonomy deal.

Mr. Arafat said he had also briefed Saudi King Fahd in writing on the autonomy accord but would not be able to visit other Gulf states because of the Executive Committee meeting.

He had not visited the region since the PLO's support for Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait cut off financial aid to his organisation.

So far only Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar have responded favourably to the PLO's attempts to restore ties. They have received lower-level PLO officials.

Saudi Arabia, once the PLO's largest financier, and Kuwait have turned down overtures from the PLO.

The Omani News Agency said that Sultan Qaboos had given "his backing and blessing to this agreement as the Palestinians chose it for themselves and by themselves."

The agency said that the talks were "warm and positive."

Peace talks continue; Arafat says Israel has agreed to Golan pullout

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The 11th round of Middle East peace talks, which end Sept. 14, continued at the State Department Wednesday between Israel, the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held out hope that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would sign a peace pact at the White House Monday before the Jewish new year and the close of their talks.

Eytan Ben-Zur, who heads the Israeli delegation in talks with the Palestinians, said his team "trusts and believes" the agreement would be signed in a solemn ceremony at the White House Monday.

The pact was secretly worked out by the PLO and Israel in Norway last month and both sides have spent the last several weeks smoothing out remaining hitches and soothing critics.

Palestinian delegation chief Haidar Abdul Shafi said it was possible that the pact could be signed on Monday, the day that the United States, the co-sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, has been considering.

The PLO and Israel must first

mutually recognise each other before the agreement can be signed, said Saeb Erakat, the vice chief of the Palestinian delegation.

The two sides are virtually agreed on the conditions for mutual recognition and are drawing up letters to that effect, said a Palestinian delegation source.

The announcement could come Thursday or Friday after a PLO executive meeting in Tunis on the matter, the source said, (see separate story).

A ranking Israeli official in Washington said that "it is necessary not to lose time and to keep up the momentum of the peace process."

The Israeli official said Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may come to Washington to sign the accord. Gad Ben Ari, the spokesman for the Israeli presidential council, is already here.

Israel and Jordan have agreed tentatively on a common agenda to settle borders and establish joint water, energy and environmental projects.

Negotiators came to terms Tuesday at the State Department after months of quiet bargaining overshadowed by Israel's negotiations with Syria and its agreement with the PLO.

Jordanian Ambassador Fayez

Tarawneh said he hoped the agenda could be finalised and announced after Israel and PLO conclude their accord.

"It doesn't need any signature or any ceremonies," he said.

The agenda calls for establishing secure and recognised borders between Israel and Jordan based on resolutions by the U.N. Security Council after the 1967 and 1973 Mideast wars.

The draft also calls for cooperation on economics, the environment, trade, tourism, energy and water resources.

On another track, Israel and Syria are making no noticeable progress in their talks at the State Department on the future of the Golan Heights and prospects for peace.

Isamar Rabinovich, the Israeli ambassador, said the negotiators would not be diverted by a political crisis in Israel (see separate story). "Our Arab counterparts understand the way Israel's democratic system works, and it's clear to them the talks cannot be sidetracked," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Wednesday as saying that Israel has agreed to a two-stage withdrawal plan from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria.

His comments were published two days after Israeli officials denied newspaper reports of a secret deal being worked out with Syria to withdraw from the Golan.

"I know in the clearest fashion that there is a firm understanding between Israel and Syria," Mr. Arafat told the Tel Aviv-based "Haolam Hazev" weekly, in its Sept. 8 edition.

Interviewed over a late night supper at PLO headquarters in Tunis, Mr. Arafat said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has "agreed, according to the information I have, to a withdrawal from all the Golan Heights, with a commitment that the territory returns to the Syrians within 10 years."

He said the withdrawal was planned in two stages, and that American and possibly a multinational force would police the areas evacuated by the Israelis.

It was not clear when the interview took place, but it was apparently before Mr. Arafat left Sunday for a trip to Syria, Egypt and Oman.

Mr. Arafat also confirmed earlier reports in Israeli newspapers that Israel had asked to lease the Golan from Syria for 99 years."

EC proposes \$650m aid

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Community (EC) proposed a new aid programme here Wednesday worth 500 million European Currency Units (\$585 million) over five years to support peace and stability in the Middle East.

EC Cooperation and Development Commissioner Manuel Marin said the programme would focus on promoting regional development cooperation between the former adversaries in the volatile region.

He said the plan, elaborated before last month's breakthrough in negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would cover other Middle East countries as they joined the peace process.

"The only way of achieving stability in the Middle East is greater economic cooperation between countries in the region," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat estimated this week that the Palestinians alone would need \$6 billion in aid for the first three years once they were granted autonomy in the Israeli-occupied

territories.

Mr. Marin stressed the need for joint water, transport, energy and communications projects among the recipients of the EC funds — Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied territories.

The new funds represent an increase of around 25 per cent over existing spending of the EC's Executive Commission in the region.

The commission has already earmarked about \$1.2 billion to the region between 1992 and 1996 — \$650 million for Egypt, \$185 million for Syria, \$147 million for Jordan, \$96 million for Israel and \$81 million for Lebanon.

EC Foreign Relations Commissioner Hans van den Broek said the commission wanted these countries to use this aid money in regional cooperation projects, and also wanted to coordinate aid projects of individual EC countries.

This year the commission is also spending \$90 million on development programmes in the occupied territories — a sum which a commission official said

would probably be matched over each of the next five years.

Mr. Marin said EC foreign ministers would debate the new commission proposal at a two-day meeting this weekend.

By the end of the month the commission also plans to present the ministers with an expanded cooperation agreement between the EC and Israel, which would give the Israelis greater trade access to the community.

Then over the next two months it plans to draw up a programme of economic and social development in the Middle East, and could invite Israeli and Arab experts here over the next two months to help," Mr. Marin said.

The commission said in a statement that it was looking for deeper, balanced relationships with Israel and the other countries of the Middle East, similar to the EC's links with the Maghreb countries of North Africa.

It added: "Relations with all the countries of the region should be based on respect for human rights and the strengthening of democracy."

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Peace talks took a back seat to a cabinet crisis Wednesday after the high court ordered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to fire his interior minister because he is under investigation for corruption.

It is the minister's ultra-religious party walks out of the coalition, it could leave the Labour government without the solid Jewish parliamentary majority it needs to push through a contested peace plan with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Rejectionists from the Likud bloc, settlers and religious groups clashed with police outside the prime minister's office as their protest against the plan entered its second day.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police moved in with water cannons to disperse the demonstrators after they tried to block the road with both their bodies and burning tyres. Protesters then pelted police with stones and Israel Radio reported 15 arrests.

About 1,500 protesters, left over from the Tuesday night crowd that police put at 50,000, camped on a low rise in front of the building and vowed to stay at least two more days.

Interior Minister Ariel Deri will officially submit his resignation to the cabinet Sunday and it will go into effect 18 hours later. He gave Mr. Rabin an advance copy Wednesday, Mr. Rabin's office said.

To add to Mr. Rabin's problems, the United Torah Judaism Party, which has four Knesset seats, announced that in a parliamentary vote it would not support the autonomy accord which it described as "dangerous for the Jewish people."

A five-judge panel of Israel's high court earlier ordered Mr. Rabin to fire Mr. Deri and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Rafael Pinhasi, also of Shas.

Mr. Deri and Mr. Pinhasi are suspected of corruption and firing them could cost Mr. Rabin's government support from Shas's six members in the Knesset (parliament).

A group which backs government reform had gone to the court demanding that Mr. Deri and Mr. Pinhasi be forced out after Mr. Rabin refused to fire them.

Several Shas Knesset members hinted on Wednesday that their party could pull out of the coalition if the two were fired.

Mr. Deri, speaking to reporters after the court decision but be-

fore he tendered his resignation, said Shas's position on the peace agreement might be reevaluated if it left the government.

"If Shas will not be in the government or will leave the coalition, we will address the political agreement accordingly as we take responsibility for something we are not a partner to?" Mr. Deri said.

A final decision by Shas on whether to leave the government rests with party sage Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who has previously backed peace moves. Even if Shas bolts, they could decide to support the agreement from outside the government.

Mr. Rabin's coalition has 67 seats in the 120-member parliament. If he lost Shas's support, it would fall to a bare 61 seats at a time when he wants to ensure the broadest consensus possible for a peace deal.

"This government's reason for being is to make peace," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on army radio. "I very much want to believe that despite the fact that this doesn't strengthen it, it won't make the coalition crumble."

Ministers said the loss of Shas would not necessarily jeopardise the peace plan, since the party might abstain and since a few

maverick opposition deputies are expected to support it.

The Knesset is scheduled to start debating the plan Thursday, although no formal session is expected until it is signed. That step awaits the PLO and Israel recognising each other.

The premier can count on parliamentary support from five communist and Arab deputies but admits he prefers not to rely on them at a time when Israel faces crucial decisions.

Mr. Deri, a 34-year-old rabbi, allegedly siphoned off tens of thousands of dollars of public money into his own pocket and Shas religious groups.

He faces nine charges, ranging from taking bribes to fraud and violating public trust during his tenure as interior minister in the previous right-wing coalition government.

Shas deputy Moshe Maiya, deputy education minister, said the party would quit the coalition but continue to back the peace process.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned in an interview published Wednesday that a civil war among Jews could erupt in Israel if the plan for Palestinian autonomy goes through.

Hekmatyar wants cabinet and Rabbani to resign

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Wednesday called for President Burhanuddin Rabbani to resign and for cabinet to be disbanded during a reopening ceremony for Kabul university.

"I am asking the president, the prime minister and the cabinet members to resign and for the establishment of a neutral interim government," Mr. Hekmatyar told several hundred guests at the higher learning institution which had been closed for nearly 18 months.

He added that the interim government should be chosen in "a free general election" which would take place in October. In his preliminary remarks, Mr. Hekmatyar was critical of the present state of affairs in Afghanistan, which he denounced as running counter to Islam.

"Whoever says that there exists an Islamic government in Afghanistan is actually humiliating Islam," he declared. "We are miles from an Islamic government."

The controversial prime minister, who leads the Hezb-e-Islami faction and rose to power as a rival of Mr. Rabbani, said it was not fair that faction leaders should sit in an isolated room and share power between themselves. His comments were in apparent reference to the failure of Afghan leaders to quit their constant hickering and factional fighting to work out a compromise and achieve a true power sharing arrangement.

Mr. Hekmatyar, himself not immune to such criticism, has been accused by his rivals of U.N.-Islamic behaviour due to his faction's rocketing of Kabul, which cost the lives of thousands of civilians.

Official, 6 others slain

The deputy governor of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, Shomali Khan, has been assassinated along with six others, Afghan sources here said Wednesday.

The seven were gunned down outside the former royal palace in the provincial capital of Jalalabad late Tuesday, an official at a Peshawar-based information centre of the Jalalabad administration said.

Syed Ishaq said the body of Shomali, who belonged to the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) led by Sayed Ahmad Gailani, was being brought to Peshawar by road for burial later in the day.

Ishaq and other Afghan sources had no clue as to the motive or identity of the attackers, or whether any arrests had been made in Jalalabad, seat of a multi-party governing shura or council.

Shomali, a well-known commander who played an important role toward a settlement among rival Afghan political factions at Jalalabad in May, was one of the most influential figures in the region.

The Nangarhar Shura is headed by Governor Haji Abdul Qadeer, a leader of the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Maulvi Yunus Khales.

"We have heard the report and we are awaiting details," Afghan ambassador in Islamabad, Sardar Koshan, told AFP.

Afghan circles in Pakistan, which shelter some 1.5 million Afghan refugees, feared that the assassination of Shomali could trigger factional tensions in the neighbouring eastern province.



ANTI-PEACE CAMP: An anti-peace right-wing Tuesday staged by thousands of people, outside demonstrator dressed like a hooded Palestinian, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office (AFP photo)

No Lockerbie trial while sanctions stay, Libya lawyer says

EDINBURGH (R) — The lawyer for two men accused of blowing an American airliner out of the sky over Scotland five years ago said sanctions against Libya must be dropped before his clients surrender to trial.

Ibrahim Legwell told Scottish Television (STV) from Tripoli Tuesday night that three conditions had to be met before a trial could take place, and an end to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council was the most important one.

The other conditions were that the two men, Abdul Baset Ali Muhammad Al Mawrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Bhimah, be allowed to surrender voluntarily and that British and U.S. demands for compensation over the bombing be deferred until after the trial.

STV said the conditions were rejected by Britain's Foreign Office, which was not immediately available to confirm this.

Britain and the United States issued arrest warrants for the two alleged intelligence agents in November 1991, holding them solely responsible for the hidden bomb that killed all 259 people aboard Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York in December, 1988 and 11 people in the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

The U.N. imposed sanctions on Libya when it refused to hand the men over. Tougher new measures are due to come into force on Oct. 1.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Legwell said the men were ready to face trial, if they were sure it would be fair.

He told Reuters in an interview

from Tripoli that neither the suspects nor the Tripoli government were at all confident they would get a fair trial in Britain or the United States.

They wanted any trial to be held in a neutral third country, he said. The men were ready to stand trial in a neutral country such as Egypt or Switzerland, the Scotsman newspaper on Tuesday quoted Mr. Legwell as saying.

The Scotsman reported that Britain had offered Libya significant concessions in efforts to bring the men to trial.

It quoted the lawyer as saying the British government had moved towards accepting Libya's position on compensation.

"It is very strange to ask for compensation in advance of a trial," he said. "That means you already consider them guilty."

Mr. Legwell said extradition demands by Britain and the United States were contrary to international law as neither country had an extradition agreement with Libya.

The two accused men are under house arrest by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi but consistently refused to hand them over despite the increasing impact of sanctions. But he says he will not stand in their way if they surrender voluntarily.

"I am doing all that is possible to have this matter settled as soon as possible," he said.

Mr. Legwell told Radio Scotland his clients were weighing their options and he was trying to arrange for them to meet their newly-appointed Scottish lawyer, Alastair Duff. A meeting was

likely within the next few weeks. Mr. Legwell said he exchanged letters in the last few weeks with British Foreign Office officials and top Scottish advocate Lord Macaulay.

"There is some receptiveness. For example, on the compensation issue, some officials have explained they are not asking for it in advance," he said.

"It seems also that there is a possibility of receptiveness regarding the prosecution of other (Libyan) parties or the extradition," he added.

Mr. Legwell said discussions were under way through British colleagues with Scotland's chief law officer, the lord advocate, to limit the prosecution to the two suspects.

Libyan officials fear the case could lead to other officials.

The Libyans argue also that any discussion of compensation should follow a trial. Britain and the United States have been demanding that the compensation issue be addressed in advance.

Mr. Legwell said he had asked Britain to present its extradition demand in a legal form, an answer to three questions:

— How the two suspects could be guaranteed a free trial.

— How could Libya be sure there would be no further prosecutions of unnamed persons and,

— How to repair the prejudicial pre-trial publicity.

"Once we get all that, and once we are convinced by the response, we will be ready to discuss positively how the two could stand trial somewhere," he said.

Yinhe incident shrouded in mystery

BEIJING (AFP) — The embargo suffered by the United States in the wake of the fruitless inspection of a Chinese ship suspected of carrying chemical weapons precursors for Iran may have been caused by Chinese manipulation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Western military experts say.

The experts have also not excluded the possibility that the suspect cargo "disappeared" from the hold of the Yinhe during its voyage from China to the Gulf.

A joint Chinese-Saudi Arabian communiqué issued Saturday following the inspection of the ship demanded by the United States and carried out in the Saudi port of Dammam under the watchful eyes of American experts — said no trace had been found of the precursors thiodiglycol or thionyl chloride.

The some 700 containers inspected on board the Yinhe, which left the northeastern Chinese port of Tianjin on July 15, were found to contain stationery, metals and machine parts.

Peking and the Chinese media

immediately unleashed a virulent anti-U.S. campaign, with daily commentaries accusing the United States of abusing its role as "world cop" and acting "irresponsibly" over the incident.

"We believe that in international political life there are still serious cases of hegemonism and power politics," Foreign Minister spokesman Wu Jiaxin told a press briefing Tuesday.

"What the United States has done regarding China's cargo ship Yinhe is entirely a show of hegemonism. We have already lodged a protest with the United States. Hegemonism will not gather support of the people and is doomed to failure," Mr. Wu said.

With little information available, Western experts have composed various scenarios around the incident, although all have rejected the possibility that the Yinhe could have dumped the cargo at sea, while conceding the possibility of a switch while in port.

It is technically very difficult, if not impossible, unless the cargo vessel is equipped with a crane, to

remove the containers from the hold of the ship and throw them overboard," said one maritime specialist.

"Furthermore, such a delicate cargo, if carried by the ship, would have to be placed at the very bottom of the hold to avoid any danger during a storm, and with the containers having to be tightly stacked together, such an operation would seem highly unlikely," he said.

One military expert said the fact that the chemicals had not been found during the Dammam inspection pointed to a possible "manipulation of, or error by the American Secret Service."

"The Chinese secret services may have mounted this 'scam' operation to show the rest of the world that China is the victim of unjust persecution by Washington," the military expert said.

One of the most bizarre hypotheses put forward has been that the precursors were found in the Dammam search, but that Washington chose to remain silent for reasons of its own.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran rejects Arab statement on islands row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, rejecting a statement by Gulf Arab foreign ministers backing the United Arab Emirates' claim to three gulf islands, said on Tuesday they "are Iranian and will remain Iranian." A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by Iranian Television branded the UAE's claim to Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb islands served foreign powers and hurt the interests of the Muslim people of the region. "These islands are Iranian and will remain Iranian. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any country to let political games overshadow the region's stability and collective security," he said. Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — said after a meeting in Riyadh on Monday that they backed UAE's efforts to assert its right on the islands by peaceful means and hoped the problem could be resolved through dialogue. There were reports in the Gulf that the UAE minister of states for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, was expected to go to Tehran in September to discuss the issue. Iran says it reasserted its rights to the islands close to major oil shipping routes in 1971 after British forces withdrew from the region, taking control of the Tunbs and making a deal with UAE member Sharjah to jointly run Abu Musa.

Five Norwegian U.N. troops sent home from Lebanon

OSLO (AFP) — Five Norwegian soldiers serving with the U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon have been sent back to Norway for having hired out weapons illegally, a spokesman for the Norwegian defence high command said Tuesday. The five, who included an officer cadet, had their contracts for service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) cancelled. Their names were not revealed. The cadet was put under close arrest for 20 days while the other four received 12 days of close arrest with fines of 2,500 Norwegian kroner (about \$350), the spokesman said. The soldiers were said to have hired out handguns to a local businessman who belonged to an armed group supporting Israel. They also bought ammunition for the weapons. The spokesman gave no further details about the businessman. The Norwegian military authorities began an investigation and searched the soldiers' barracks last Thursday to see whether other UNIFIL soldiers were involved in the affair, the spokesman said.

Kurdish drug smugglers jailed

LONDON (AFP) — A 47-year-old Iraqi Kurd drug smuggler was jailed here for 15 years for importing £1.5 million (\$2 million) worth of heroin into Britain. Judge Anura Cooray recommended that Farook Tofik Mohammad be deported because his "international links with the drug smuggling world" meant that his continued presence in Britain was of "potential detriment" to the country. Mr. Mohammad's two accomplices, 76-year-old Iranian Kurd Rassoul Sarhanghi, of Uppsala, Sweden, and 79-year-old Karaman Saad, an Iraqi Kurd, of Stockholm, Sweden, who were also recommended for deportation, were each jailed for 12 years. The three defendants were found guilty after a trial last June of importing 12.99 kilos of heroin, with a street value of £1.5 million from Istanbul to London on April 12, 1992. The three defendants smuggled the drug into Britain in the petrol tank of a Toyota car driven to London by a fourth defendant, Amir Barui, 33, of Stockholm, Sweden, who was acquitted by the jury. Customs officer Philip Searle, who led the investigation, said the capture and jailing of Mr. Mohammad — a former employee of the Saudi Arabian King's cousin, Prince Ghalib Bin Saud — was a significant blow to the international drug smuggling fraternity. Mr. Searle said the Middle East was now the biggest supplier of Britain's £50 million (\$75 million) a-year heroin trade.

Iran to set up camps in Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said it signed an agreement with Azerbaijan on Tuesday to set up camps in Azeri territory for 100,000 refugees fleeing Armenian attacks. The deal was signed in Baku after talks held by a delegation from the Iranian Interior Ministry. Iran's official news agency IRNA said. The first camp with a capacity of 10,000 would be set up soon and 40 tonnes of food has already been sent to the Imilashi area, 12 kilometres inside Azerbaijan, it added. The camps would help relieve Iran's worries about a large refugee influx as a result of Armenian advances in Azerbaijan which have displaced 200,000 people according to spokesman said Sadako Ogata, head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), who is in Azerbaijan next week and review UNHCR preparations there for a possible Azeri influx. "We have contingency plans on the Iranian side, but the time being people are reaching safer," said IRNA. Said 28 Azeris had crossed the border and were taken to refuge in Iran on Saturday, the only refugee arrivals reported so far in the current Armenian campaign. Iran on Monday told Armenia again to pull its forces out of Azerbaijan and said it would not remain silent towards aggression close to its borders. Armenia denies its troops are helping Azerbaijan's Armenian minority in the conflict, which has spread from a disputed enclave to areas populated by Azeris.

PKK man was 'treated like crime boss'

ROME (R) — A Kurdish guerrilla representative said Tuesday he was treated like a mafia boss in a Rome jail and demanded an explanation for his arrest from the Italian government. Ali Sapan, 29, a spokesman in Europe for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), was released from jail Monday after judges decided the offences of which he was accused had lapsed under Italian law. "I was treated like a mafia boss," Mr. Sapan told a news conference. "I am used to moving freely around Europe. Such a thing has never happened to me." Mr. Sapan was detained on Thursday after leaving Rome's foreign press club where he had given a news conference on his efforts to negotiate the release of two Italian tourists in the hands of Kurdish separatists. "The Italian government must admit it made an error," Mr. Sapan said. "I want a believable justification for why I was jailed." Turkish authorities say they want Mr. Sapan extradited on charges of subversion. Italian officials did not say whether Mr. Sapan, who said he holds political refugee status in France, would be extradited. The PKK has kidnapped 16 foreigners in Turkey in the last two months.

Sudan leader rebuts U.S. terrorist charges

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudan's hardline military leader denied on Tuesday U.S. charges his government was sponsoring "terrorism" and said reports he was backing fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid were false.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir told a news conference in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, Washington had failed to produce any proof his country had allowed "terrorist" training camps to be set up on its territory.

"We challenge the United States government to come up with a single case of the Sudanese government being involved in a terrorist act, or harbouring terrorists," he said.

Gen. Bashir, who was speaking at the end of a two-day regional summit, also denied he was supporting Somali gunmen linked to Gen. Aidid in an increasingly bloody battle with U.N. forces in Mogadishu.

"We have no common border with Somalia. It is a mere allegation to besmirch the good name of Sudan," he said in answer to a question from a Reuters journalist.

"Even our ships which leave port Sudan with humanitarian supplies for Somalia are being searched," he said.

The United States recently placed the government of Sudan on a blacklist with four other countries it said backed worldwide "terrorism" in one form or another.

Gen. Bashir described his government's relationship with Iran as normal bilateral ties between two sovereign countries and said Sudan was not trying to export Islam.

"The stability of Sudan is dependent on the regional countries, why should Sudan attempt to destabilise them?" he asked.

Political analysts say Western

Hamas urges PLO members to resign en masse

Occupied Jerusalem (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Wednesday branded the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal with Israel a "conspiracy" and urged all PLO office-holders to resign.

"We call on all members of the National Council, the Central Council and the Executive Committee to step down," Hamas said in a statement distributed in the occupied territories.

It demanded that a "national Palestinian conference" be held very soon "to take practical steps to save our people."

Hamas, which is not part of the PLO umbrella, opposes the peace process itself as well as the agreement with Israel to launch autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho first.

It also called for an escalation of the intifada against Israeli occupation to scupper the accord.

"This agreement is just a different face of the occupation," the statement said.

"It will be a weak autonomous administration over just two per cent of Palestine. Jerusalem and the settlements are left under the control of the Zionist entity."

Israel hopes the historic agreement for a five-year period of autonomy spreading over the rest of the West Bank will be signed in Washington next week.

Israel hopes the historic

Jordan Times
Tel.: 667171

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif at Heracle
17:45 Goal
18:15 Geopolis
18:30 News in French
19:15 Azimuts
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:10 Undue Force
22:40 News in English
22:50 Movie of the Week: "Perfect Profile"

PRAYER TIMES

06:25 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhahr
16:07 'Asr
18:56 Maghrib
20:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedih, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623566

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

632541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713261

St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 717751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625236

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624281

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 649322

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Winds will be westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 15 / 27

Aqaba 22 / 35

Deserts 14 / 31

Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27.5, Aqaba 34, Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Kanaan 790276

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Sa'id Al 782825

Dr. Mohammad Shugair 625693

Fires pharmacy 661912

Perdora pharmacy 733536

Al Azara pharmacy 337055

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yaacub pharmacy 649445

Shamsani pharmacy 637660

Najla pharmacy 847632

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Amman 15 / 27

Aqaba 22 / 35

Deserts 14 / 31

Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27.5, Aqaba 34, Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630241

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661776

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 897467

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 634381

RJ Flight Information 08-33200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mallat, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisat 669114

Shmeisat Hospital 669114

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mustashir Hospital 6672719

The Islamic, Abdali 666123/57

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648

Italian, Al-Muhajir 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26

CC centres to accept payment service bills

AMMAN (Petra) — Soon, all centres operated by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs will be powered to receive payment telephone and water bills from subscribers, according to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. The measure will facilitate payment procedures for the public and speed up the collection of public funds, said the prime minister during a visit to the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs Wednesday.

Maps designating the locations of these centres and post offices will be distributed to the public via stores and other private businesses, added Dr. Majali at a meeting attended by Minister Tareq Suheimat, TCC Director General Ahmad Nawa-

wi and ministry Secretary General Abdullah Al Jazi.

The TCC director briefed the meeting on TCC projects and services, including the new network being installed in Ma'an, Mafrqa, Amman, Sweileh, Maraka, Wadi Sir and other areas.

Mr. Nawawi also spoke about the Amman-Damascus telephone cable which is to be linked to the Syria-Cyprus and Greece-France submarine cable.

Another network, he said, is being installed linking Amman with Aqaba, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Referring to telephone network in the Kingdom, Mr. Nawawi said it is due to be completed between 1993 and 1997 and will provide nearly 250,000 new telephone lines.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Suheimat and other ministry officials (Petra photo)

Jubilee School head explains student selection process

AMMAN (J.T.) — A press conference was held at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to explain the selection process of students at NHF's Jubilee School.

Jubilee School Director Fathi Jarwan said the 1993-1994 academic year marks the inaugural scholastic year of the Jubilee School and the first orientation session for the 89 accepted students and their parents will be held Saturday.

Dr. Jarwan explained that a multiple criteria student selection process was undertaken by

the school. This multiple criteria consisted of: the student's school grades over the last five semesters, ratings of salient characteristics of superior students, the Raven's Progressive Advanced Matrices (IQ test), essay writing, and structured interviews with prospective students.

Testing was administered by the Jubilee School in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the University of Jordan in May and July, 1993.

The Raven's Progressive Advanced Matrices Test was the standardized test used as it is one of the most renowned and widely used for testing nonverbal group/individual intelligence.

Written essays of applicants were also examined as an indication of their creativity and self-expression.

The 258 applicants with the highest scores were interviewed and a final selection was made. Eighty-nine applicants were selected to join the

school.

According to an NHF student Wednesday, 1,021 applications were submitted to the school, 789 students were nominated by schools in the Greater-Amman area including the Amman First Directorate (266), Amman's Second Directorate (216), the Suburbs Directorate (63), the Private Education Directorate (58), The UNRWA Department of Education (187). The statement added that 176 applicants were nominated independently

by their parents.

The Jubilee School Project has been a personal commitment of Her Majesty Queen Noor since she was entrusted with it in 1985.

The school's mission is to offer students with outstanding academic records a unique learning experience based on their needs, interests, capabilities and past experiences.

It will provide a four-year co-educational programme, with an ultimate enrollment of 400 students.

AF party attacks Gaza-Jericho plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Front Party (IAF) Wednesday attacked the Jordanian-Israeli, Gaza-Jericho agreement as a conspiracy rected against the national security.

Recalling that the IAF has throughout opposed to the Middle East peace talks, the IAF said a statement Wednesday that negotiations have led to ending the Palestinian presence over a two per cent of Palestinian territory.

"This is a conspiracy which ascends Palestine because it dees threatens the Arab and Islamic countries' security and lives the Palestinians into further deair," said the IAF statement.

"It is the duty of all national and Islamic groups to confront the Gaza-Jericho conspiracy because this agreement will impose Zionism's economic, cultural and political hegemony over the Arab countries," said the statement.

The 'Gaza-Jericho first agreement is bound to deny the Palestinians their national identity and open the door for their eviction from their country," it said. "The LO-Israeli agreement is a Zionist attempt to create what has

been called the substitute homeland for the Palestinians, paving the ground for evicting the Palestinian people into Jordan thus threatening the security of the Palestinian and the Jordanian people," charged the statement.

Attacking the PLO for going behind the back of the Palestinian institutions in reaching the agreement with Israel and the Egyptian government, which, it said, colluded with the U.S. administration in this conspiracy, the IAF statement said that the signing of the Gaza-Jericho first agreement would serve as a black day in the history of the Palestinian problem.

Referring to the Jewish settlements as constituting a permanent threat, the statement accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation of striving to end the intifada and ensuring Israeli presence on Palestinian lands.

The statement urged the Jordanian government to withdraw its delegation to the Middle East peace process and called on the PLO to stop what it called the tragedy-comedy force.

It also encouraged the groups opposed to the agreement to join forces and abort the conspiracy.

Jordan could use more than 300 occupational therapists — foundation director

By Maha Adhadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan potentially needs more than 300 occupational therapists, but awareness about this relatively new type of therapy is minimal, said Samira Bahan, the director of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

"Once awareness is increased about occupational therapy, which is often mistaken for physical therapy, different hospitals and clinics will find they need to employ occupational therapists too," Dr. Bahan said. "Jordan has the potential to absorb some 350 occupational therapists," she said, adding that occupational therapy is involved with an entirely different aspect of medical care.

Occupational therapists (OT's) are rehabilitation specialists working towards the improvement of the quality of life of those individuals who are temporarily or permanently suffering from the consequences of physical or mental illness, or social development problems.

"Occupational therapy's primary objective is to increase the functional independence of individuals who suffered mental or physical disabilities so that these people can live as normal a life as possible with the abilities they still have," said lecturer and occupational therapist Gada Saleh.

Ms. Saleh said that although they differ, occupational therapists work in coordination with physical therapists to meet a common goal of improved quality of life.

She said that physical therapists treat patients who may suffer from decreased muscle strength. In such cases the physical therapist works with the patient on exercises to increase that strength.

An occupational therapist's job begins when that strength is built up.

"Now that the patient has more strength in the arms he/she may still not be able to do things such as dress or feed him or herself or be able to do perform other functions. As an occupational therapist we give these people methods and means to be able to do these things using the simplest and most inexpensive means and

product. Instead of buttons on clothes for instance, we give our patients simple alternatives like velcro for fastening clothes. If they cannot hold a glass we make special handles on the glass so that a patient can balance it on his or her hand and drink," Ms. Saleh said.

She added that no patient is beyond help. "Even if we cannot improve the patient's functional status the least we can do, which may be the most we can do for some patients, is increase the quality of their lives by occupying their time and their minds even if they have no muscle movement. This is why an occupational therapist must be creative," she said.

In this type of therapy the emphasis is on any activity in which a patient is doing something purposeful and adding to his or her life in some way, whether it is in the social sense or improving self-esteem or psychological motivation and status.

Dr. Bahan drew attention to one major problem faced by occupational therapists. "It's almost a Catch-22 situation. Those who have the awareness and know they have the need for occupational therapists often do not have the financial means to employ them, and that often includes charitable organisations," Dr. Bahan said.

She explained that 12 therapists who will graduate from the Occupational Therapy College at the Farah Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre will be unemployed along with three others from last year's class who have not yet been absorbed in the workforce.

"I call on the minister of health to appoint those graduates from our college who are not employed by the military (the military appoints six graduates each year) so that they can enrich the rehabilitation services of the ministry and psychiatric centres. I also call on the minister to delegate those not employed to the various charitable societies," Dr. Bahan urged.

Under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'd the Occupational Therapy College set up a two-day workshop and exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Wednesday, so that those interested could learn more about this field.

Cabinet approves PSD senior staff changes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday retired Brigadier Ibrahim Harb, deputy Public Security Director and director for Judicial Affairs and Brigadier Izzeddin Zaza, commander of the Police College. The retirements are effective September 10, 1993. PSD Director Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan Wednesday announced the following post changes of PSD senior officers effective Friday. Brig. Ahmad Khasawneh, head of the Residency and Border Department will become PSD inspector general, Brig. Mahmoud Aho Hammour will become assistant director for Judicial Affairs, Brig. Ziyad Najdawi will become director of the Residency and Border Department, Colonel Mohammad Salehman will become commander of the Police College at Muta University, Colonel Fayez Shreideh will become acting director of the PSD's Training Department and Lieutenant General Jamal Momani will become head of the PSD administrative offices.

Meanwhile, the PSD Wednesday announced that 2,922 crimes occurred in Jordan during July, up from 2,649 crimes in the same month last year.

The majority of those perpetrating these crimes, particularly robberies and thefts, were aged 18 to 27, said a PSD statement.

It said the thefts and robberies were committed by 609 persons, including 41 who were of other Arab nationalities.

Festive firing incidents resulted in the death of four persons and 43 injuries in July.

Typhoid cases rise to 15 Health Ministry begins computerisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of positively diagnosed typhoid cases in the Ajloun district has risen to 15, up from 10 on Monday, and the total number of suspected typhoid cases reached 127. Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Wednesday.

Speaking during a visit to Al Eman Hospital in Ajloun, Dr. Malhas said that most of the patients have been discharged and 20 remain under treatment at the hospital.

There were no deaths caused by the high fevers suffered from citizens in the Ajloun area and health teams are working to identify the source of the illness, said the minister.

On Monday, Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that all the High fever cases admitted to Al Eman Hospital were treated as typhoid cases on purely clinical grounds, although culture tests proved that most of the patients were not suffering from typhoid.

He also said that health teams were testing samples of food and beverages as well as water to determine the source of the disease.

Ministry starts computerisation
The Ministry of Health has

begun to computerise its operations to improve information management and the delivery of health care services in the country, according to a ministry statement Wednesday.

The first phase of the computerisation programme began Wednesday with the donation of five computers and printers by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said the statement.

The computers and printers were presented to Health Minister, Abdul Rahim Malhas, by William T. Oliver, director of USAID in Jordan. The equipment was bought under the USAID-funded Primary Health Care Nursing Project and will be used to improve the Planning and Nursing Directorates in the ministry.

According to Dr. Malhas, the first priority of the ministry is to improve the delivery of health care services and to reduce waste and thus costs for these services. "This is not possible if accurate and reliable information on essential and life-saving drugs and equipment and the quality of services is not readily available," said Dr. Malhas.

Excellent computer software

programmes have been developed and are available locally to produce this information on a routine basis, he said.

But, "we in the health ministry are still years behind and are not using these technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services and to better serve the needs of our people," Dr. Malhas added.

A separate Directorate of Research and Information is being created in the ministry to collect and analyse critical data on essential drugs and services and to monitor progress in various areas, the statement explained.

"The head of this department will report directly to me," said Dr. Malhas, who is a surgeon as well as a specialist in computer sciences and the application of computers in medicine.

A Jordanian computer specialist has already been recruited by the ministry to assess critical information needs and to develop plans for computerisation of the ministry's operations and activities over the next few years.

"We cannot enter the 21st century with antiquated 14th century systems and thoughts," Dr. Malhas said.

National health insurance could cost JD 24-123m

AMMAN (Petra) — Between JD 24 million and JD 123 million are needed by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in order to implement a health insurance plan for workers and their families, said SSC Director Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani Wednesday.

Mr. Hourani was speaking at a meeting with the chairman and member of the executive bureau of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions to review a study conducted by the University of Jordan on the prospects of applying a national health insurance policy.

According to the study, the scheme would require at least JD 60 million annually to provide for one million beneficiaries, said Mr. Hourani.

This means that each employee

would have to contribute nearly 16 per cent of his/her income to pay for the implementation of this plan, which requires large technical and administrative services, he added.

But according to Fawzi Sahawneh, head of the university team which prepared the study, such a plan could be implemented through three different options. The first is the paying of the JD 60 million annually from employee salary deduction for a family plan for medical and other related services.

The second option entails the construction of 6 hospitals, with a combined 1,200 bed capacity in the north, central and southern parts of the Kingdom, together with opening nine specialised clinics and 18 health centres. This project requires JD 78 million,

plus an additional JD 45 million for operational costs each year, added Mr. Sahawneh.

He said the third option, which costs JD 24 million, entails the creation of clinics and laboratories and buying medical services from the existing Jordanian hospitals.

A dialogue which followed raised several ideas, but all attending agreed that any health scheme can only be applied in stages. Therefore, at first only employees can be included in the plan; a family plan, they concurred, could follow gradually.

It was decided that a series of similar meetings would be required to reach a final decision on the subject since the government, the employees and the employers will all be involved in the implementation of the scheme.

Finance minister calls for reduced Amman budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Sami Gammon Wednesday said projects planned for the Amman area next year are too ambitious, and allocations made for them far exceed the government's means.

He said a preliminary budget prepared by the Amman Governorate's Executive and Consultative Councils has suggested that JD 80 million be spent on these projects, but a

more realistic figure should not exceed JD 55 million, up from JD 45 million allocated for the Amman region in 1993.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the two councils, in the presence of Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, to discuss a capital and development budget for Amman in 1994, Mr. Gammon suggested a budget of up to JD 55 million only, so that the state

can fulfill the region's needs. The finance minister said the allocations should be made only for projects still being implemented or those which the government has already committed itself to, with the remainder of allocations to be spent on high priority schemes.

Mr. Gammon suggested that the two councils re-examine their projects and define their priorities within a JD 55 million budget.

Japan, Jordan to organise system engineering course

AMMAN (J.T.) — The governments of Japan and Jordan will cooperate in organising training courses in system engineering at the Computer Technology, Training and Industrial Studies Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Agreement on this project was concluded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) following a series of meetings held in Amman.

The Japanese team conducted

surveys, held a series of meetings and exchanged opinions with the concerned authorities regarding training courses, said an RSS statement Wednesday.

It said that JICA and HCST share the view that the course will contribute to the development of system engineering in the Middle East.

The purpose of the course, the statement said, is to provide the participants from Middle Eastern countries with an opportunity to upgrade relevant techniques and

knowledge. Noting that the first of the courses will be held from January to May 1994, the statement said, the courses will be held annually for four years.

Under the initial agreement, Japan will send experts who will give advice and deliver lectures on a short-term basis. Japan will also bear expenses for the first course for participants from different countries, including air fare, accommodations, per diems and medical insurance.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bishar at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhels.
- ★ Thirty paintings by Amor Aouens and Salam Kanaan at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammad Al 'Ameri and Ghassan Abu Lahab at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Fuman," of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chak" exhibition in Jabal Lurweldah.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Issa'li at Baladun Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshdella Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Opening of Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina, Kufa St. No. 46.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "The Gray Divorce" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

- ★ Musical party by the National Club band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Orfali Art Gallery

OPENING TODAY

Announces the opening of an art exhibition today, Sept. 9, 1993, at 6:00 p.m.

The gallery opens daily, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - 4, 10 p.m. Umm Uthaina, Kufa St. 46, behind Umm Uthaina Pharmacy



ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 18, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday, Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration during the week prior to the beginning of the course.

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(Application should be received no later than September 20, 1993)

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Ambitious but correct

THE GENEVA conference on humanitarian law ended with a string of decisions topped by a recommendation for the creation of an international tribunal to try war criminals as the most effective way to ensure the full observance of the Geneva conventions and their two protocols. In its own right, the proposal to establish a world court with jurisdiction over grave humanitarian law violations is a correct and timely step even though it appears to be an ambitious project for the moment.

To draw only on the precedent set by the Nuremberg trials that took place in the aftermath of World War II to try war criminals would not be sufficient since that whole exercise was predicated on the proposition that the allied countries, the victors, would try the perpetrators of crimes against humanity committed by nationals of Nazi Germany that lost the war. Had there been no losers or winners in the wake of that war, there could not have been any trials of any war criminals no matter how serious they were.

This is essentially a catch-22 situation: How to apprehend and prosecute war criminals of a nation that won a war. The biggest challenge facing the proponents of the idea to create an international body for the purpose of bringing to justice persons who commit crimes under the Geneva conventions and their protocols is to have equal jurisdiction over winners and losers in any armed conflict, something that the international community of nations has not been able to do till this point in time. That is why the United Nations would not succeed in bringing to justice war criminals in the Yugoslav conflict since most of the culprits belong to the winning side. Likewise big and powerful countries would never come out within the purview of the jurisdiction of any such world tribunal as envisaged by the conferees at the Geneva meeting.

This is essentially the same drawback in the human rights endeavours where accountability is never effective except against small and weak countries. Even then, the measures taken against states that systematically violate international human rights norms are seldom potent enough. Selectivity and double standards that still plague international efforts to promote human rights worldwide also hamper the attempts to enforce humanitarian law principles as codified in the current international law.

Until utopia is attained in both of these endeavours, the international community would have to be content with less than perfect solutions. The establishment of an international criminal body on humanitarian law violators would still help to create a positive international environment for respecting existing humanitarian law norms even though its arms would not reach all violators on an equal footing. We hope the time will come when the international order would be able to erase all double standards and selectivity in human rights and humanitarian law pursuits. Till then the world will have to do its best with what means it has available to it for now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that there was no alternative to the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces to ensure peace and stability in Palestine during the autonomy rule. Mahmoud Rimawi said the Palestinians have reported that their agreement with Israel provided for such a deployment but the Israeli foreign minister continues to deny it, claiming that the two sides are in agreement on plans regarding security. If Israel is to maintain its forces in the Palestinian lands during the autonomy rule, clashes between these forces and the Palestinians are bound to continue, said the writer. It is enough for Israel to maintain security in and around the Jewish settlements as the deal with the Palestinians stipulates leaving the question of overall security to the U.N. peace-keeping forces, said the writer. He said that the U.N. Security Council members have shown interest in the Israeli-Palestinian deal and therefore it is their duty to make arrangements to ensure its success through the presence of a strong peace-keeping force until a final settlement has been reached paving the ground for the creation of a Palestinian state. The U.N. peacekeeping forces are indeed essential at this stage to maintain stability and security, continued the writer. He expressed hope that the Security Council would back the deal with actions by dispatching urgently-needed peacekeepers to the area.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour warned the Arabs of a possible Israeli economic invasion of their countries in the coming years, noting that the step by the step withdrawal from occupied Arab lands is helping it achieve that goal. Mohammad Kawash said that the Israelis are now contemplating gradual withdrawal, starting with the Majdal Shams first option in the Syrian Golan area, and could follow that by a Jizzin or Marjayoun first option in southern Lebanon, but they have already prepared the plans and the maps for their economic expansion to take the place of the military expansion in the Arab World. The writer said that while the Israelis are preparing themselves for invading the Arab countries economically, Arab capitals are still hesitant about the manner of dealing with the situation and unable to confront the Israeli objectives with a joint stand and a concerted plan. Israel is seeking investments in tourism, industry and other fields and has its eyes on Arab water resources to help it achieve their goal, he added. The Arab, said the writer, are still confused and their so-called coordination efforts are failing; they have no ready plans to confront Israeli expansion plans. He urged the Arab leaders to rise to the level of responsibility towards their people and take immediate and concerted steps to prevent Israel's economic invasion of the Arab World.

By Dr. James Zogby

Following is the third of four articles by the writer, president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, examining the Israeli lobby AIPAC's sources of power and the roots of its current internal and political problems. The author contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

In the past two years, AIPAC has been buffeted by a number of exposes and negative press reports. All these came on the heels of the organisation's first legislative defeat since the AWACS vote in 1981. President George Bush's initial victory in denying unconditional loan guarantees to Israel was a disturbing loss for the lobby. It had been humiliated. Its myth of invincibility was shattered by the incident, since the loss showed that the lobby was vulnerable to defeat.

During the 15 years of Likud rule in Israel, AIPAC had become wedded to that government's political line. Throughout the entire period leading up to President Bush's decision to deny the loan guarantees to Israel, Mr. Shamir was convinced that his American supporters would teach Mr. Bush a lesson and win congressional passage of the loan guarantees. After its repeated victories in Congress, Israel's government felt that whenever it had problems with an administration, it merely had to turn to the lobby, which would move the Congress to intimidate the president and his State Department. That strategy had worked numerous times in the past.

But in this instance, Mr. Bush was convinced that if the unconditional loan guarantees were to go through, chances for a comprehensive Middle East peace would diminish. Therefore, he was determined to resist congressional pressure and do some behaviour modification of his own on the Israeli government.

Mr. Bush's now famous press conference remarks about being "one lonely guy" resisting the pressure of "one thousand lobbyists" are interesting for a number of reasons. First, he showed that presidential leadership could win and force Congress and the lobby to back down. Second, Mr. Bush showed that public opinion was clearly not with Israel's request for more financial benefits from the U.S. (In fact, a poll the Arab American Institute provided the White House days before the president's press conference showed overwhelming public opposition to Israel's loan guarantee request).

The one benefit for AIPAC to come out of this setback was the perception in the Jewish community that Mr. Bush was insulting the lobby and questioning the loyalty of Jews who actively supported Israel. AIPAC, which as we shall see has recently had a rocky relationship with other mainstream Jewish organisations, was momentarily strengthened by Jewish supporters rushing to its defence.

In the end, Mr. Bush won and Mr. Shamir lost, and AIPAC emerged from this fight somewhat wounded in the eyes of the larger public. But, at the same time, the lobby was somewhat strengthened within the Jewish community, and AIPAC was resolved to punish the President who had beaten it.

In an ominous speech before

Crises hit the pro-Israel lobby

AIPAC's policy conference on April 5, 1992, Tom Dine, then AIPAC's executive director, said:

"...We are not going away. We are here. And we will not be intimidated. We shall continue to nudge the stone up the hill inch by inch — until we get to the top. The campaign to win support for the guarantees may take several rounds before we succeed. Let us remember that the landmark Jackson-Vanik legislation to free Soviet Jewry did not succeed on the first effort in September 1972. The Nixon administration adamantly opposed the legislation as a threat to détente and, by extension, to world peace. It took two and one-half years of debate, plus the Nixon's resignation, before the Jackson-Vanik amendment was adopted in December 1974. ...We are very tenacious people when an issue of principle is concerned. On the issue before us today, we are right and the administration is wrong."

Whether or not Mr. Dine intended his speech as a threat to Mr. Bush, the message was clear. AIPAC would oppose George Bush and even seek to bring him down. The die was cast. Mr. Bush ended up losing the election, but AIPAC emerged wounded as well.

Shortly after winning his election in Israel in June of 1992, the new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, let it be known that he did not care for the way the so-called pro-Israel groups behaved during the loan guarantees debate. In Mr. Rabin's eyes, they had arrogated to themselves the power to negotiate with the administration

and an important writer for the paper had come under AIPAC scrutiny because the editor had made "dove-like" comments at a picnic sponsored by a pro-Israel peace group, and the writer had written stories that were unsympathetic to AIPAC's positions. The lobby, it appeared, had launched a campaign utilising prominent Jewish leaders to pressure the paper to replace the editor and remove the writer.

While AIPAC won and the editor was forced to resign, the stories that appeared in the aftermath proved quite embarrassing to the lobby. The organisation was described as McCarthy-like (a reference to the famous U.S. Senator who in the 1950s launched "witch-hunt" to ferret out "communists" in the U.S. government). As the story developed it became clear that, like McCarthy, AIPAC's "enemies lists" were very long indeed.

A few months later, fresh from what AIPAC viewed as "its victory" over George Bush in the November 1992 election, the organisation was rocked by yet another scandalous revelation. (In fact, the Clinton victory was not due to the work of AIPAC. It was due to a number of factors including the continuing decline in the nation's economy, the frustration of many groups with Republican economics, the coalition of a number of liberal groups whose causes the Democrats supported and the disruptive presence in the campaign of Ross Perot. But, as in the case of the Percy campaign in 1984, AIPAC was quick in claiming victory for itself).

"The debates and divisions that run through Israeli society have also emerged in the American Jewish community. They have long been hidden from public view, as the community and its organisation maintained a facade of internal cohesion and complex acceptance of whatever the Israeli government position."

on behalf of Israel. And that, he noted, would no longer be tolerated.

Furthermore, Labour Party officials let it be known that they did not care for the way the lobby had sided with the Likud during this debate. In a number of public rebukes Mr. Rabin chided AIPAC for its position. And this left the organisation wounded in the eyes of many in the Jewish community and the press. Mr. Bush's attack had had the short-term effect of winning Jewish support for the lobby — Mr. Rabin's attacks ended that.

Still reeling from this embarrassment, AIPAC received a number of additional shocks in the following months as several major newspapers carried exposes detailing how AIPAC's "research department" spied on and defamed its enemies. The articles featured reports on how AIPAC had carried out campaigns against African-Americans, Arab-Americans, politicians, and most significantly, even prominent American Jews who had run afoul of the lobby because of their suspected "pro-peace" positions.

The case that first prompted the exposes involved the removal of the editor of the influential Washington Jewish Week (the paper of this city's Jewish community). As the story unfolded, it was established that the editor

in the midst of their euphoria, the president of AIPAC, David Steiner, was tape-recorded in a telephone conversation making the following boastful claims to a prospective contributor:

"...I helped him (Clinton), we raised over a million dollars for him in New Jersey."

"...I've known Bill for seven, eight years from the National Governors Association. I know him on a personal basis. One of my friends is Hillary Clinton's scheduler, one of my officer's daughters works there, we gave two employees leaves of absence to work on the campaign. We have a dozen people in his headquarters. In Little Rock, and they're all going to get big jobs, we have friends. I also work with a think tank, the Washington Institute, Michael Mandelbaum and Martin Indyk being foreign policy advisors. Steve Speigel, we've got friends...this is my business...we need a friendly president...we need Bill Clinton's ear. I talked to Bill Clinton...he's going to be very good for us."

AIPAC was not only publicly humiliated by this incident, but it was politically hurt as well. Negative articles appeared, Mr. Steiner was forced to resign, and many of President Clinton's closest advisors were furious at the AIPAC president's arrogance and his distortions, since many of

his claims were not true.

AIPAC's wish-list for appointments in the Clinton administration was long, but in the end very few succeeded in receiving their hoped-for assignments. A New York Times article in January of 1993 noted AIPAC's frustration as it failed to place "its favourites" in most of the top positions in the administration. In fact, only two of the top appointments sought by AIPAC and the pro-Israel community came through, and they were balanced by other appointments given to supporters of Peace Now and other experienced members of the foreign policy establishment.

More recently, AIPAC was hit once again by negative stories which, in a week's time, forced the resignation of its long-time Executive Director Tom Dine and also one of its vice presidents, Harvey Friedman, a wealthy businessman from Florida. Ostensibly, Mr. Dine was removed because of comments he had made that were insulting to traditional Orthodox Jews. The comments, appearing in a recently published book, referred to the orthodox as "smelly" and "low-class."

Mr. Dine insists that he was merely telling the author how some in the mainstream upper-middle class Jewish community feel about the traditionalists, but despite his appeals, he was told by the organisation to resign. Many feel that the real reason for Mr. Dine's ouster lay deeper in the internal struggle taking place within AIPAC.

A clear example of this struggle can be seen in the second recent forced resignation, that of Harvey Friedman. On a recent trip to Israel, Mr. Friedman, along with three members of Congress from Florida, met with Israeli Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin. Mr. Beilin is a well-known dove. When Mr. Friedman raised the issue of the peace process, Mr. Beilin responded that he believed Israel should give territories back to the Palestinians in exchange for peace. Mr. Friedman challenged Mr. Beilin with the suggestion that the Palestinians ought to be invited to leave the occupied territories for other Arab countries, and then went on to question the mandate of the Rabin government to trade any territories for peace. And to add insult to injury, when asked to later comment on the exchange, he referred to Mr. Beilin as "a little slimeball."

For his insult to the Israeli Deputy Minister, Mr. Friedman was asked to resign. The debates and divisions that run through Israeli society have also emerged in the American Jewish community. They have long been hidden from public view, as the community and its organisation maintained a facade of internal cohesion and complete acceptance of whatever the Israeli government position.

What the Dine and Friedman resignations point to is a fracturing of the cohesion and the acceptance within AIPAC.

AIPAC's new president, Steve Grossman, is a wealthy Massachusetts business executive. He served as chair of that state's Democratic Party and has been a vice president of AIPAC. He has promised to restore AIPAC's credibility and is currently heading a search committee for a new executive director.

Mr. Grossman is known to be a

supporter of the Labour Party and has expressed some sympathy for a "land for peace" position. He is also an acquaintance of the new Democratic president. While some Jewish newspapers have taken the Grossman presidency of AIPAC to mean "a kinder and gentler AIPAC," the pro-Labour position of its president does not mean a real shift as Arab Americans and supporters of a balanced U.S.-Middle East policy are concerned. AIPAC is still pushing, as its recent newsletters show, for a narrow pro-Israel and one-sided Middle East policy.

For its part, Israel is now trying to help the organisation it so recently rebuked. The Labour government obviously likes Mr. Grossman's politics, and has sent letters in praise of him to AIPAC's newsletter, Near East Review (NER). In recent issues of the NER there has been a campaign-like effort to convince AIPAC members that a new page is being written in the relationship between the lobby and the government of Israel. First, a letter to Mr. Grossman from Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Itamar Rabinovich, was reprinted, which said in part:

"While AIPAC undoubtedly has weathered some difficulties in recent months, there unfortunately seems to be a tendency to convert isolated cases into major conflicts, thus amplifying the issue. I wish to tell you, dear Steve, that my talks in Jerusalem with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other leading officials, emphasised to me the great degree of respect and gratitude we feel towards AIPAC. On a personal note, may I say that your ascendancy to the leadership of AIPAC was received in Israel with hope and high expectations."

Months after his rebuke of AIPAC (then led by Mr. Dine), a letter from Mr. Rabin to Mr. Grossman also ran in the NER which furthered the effort begun by Mr. Rabinovich to shore up the lobby and its new president. "I want my position to be fully understood," Mr. Rabin wrote. "I consider AIPAC to be an important friend of Israel, and I am a friend of AIPAC. ...Through you, Steve, I want to thank AIPAC's dedicated officers, staff, and members."

Whether Mr. Grossman can steer AIPAC back to its former position remains to be seen and depends upon his ability to resolve serious internal difficulties and political problems plaguing the organisation.

LETTERS

The name of the game

To the Editor:

The mood of millions of Palestinians scattered around the big blue marble is expected to change. After 26 years of ruthless, brutal Israeli rule of Palestinians, Israel and the West have jointly decided that times have dictated a change for the region. Thus, joy has suddenly come to the Palestinians and to the rest of the world.

The question is for how long? What pressure did we, the Arabs exert on Israel to bring it down to its knees and accept land in exchange for peace? Was it oil, economic or industrial wealth? Was it the tactics of warfare? Was it the liberation movement? Was it the joint and wise Arab political intellect?

The answer to all is, "None of the above." Israel has always done and shall continue to do what is best for it, as long as it is the one and only military power in this region of the world. We went to the Madrid peace talks with nothing to offer. We were not the very industrious, economically and militarily powerful entities. We are of no significance to Israel and to the West. They take what they require and they keep us alive so that we watch over the resources they possess. They know when to give and when to take. Peace is not guaranteed and/or always fragile, as is land. When we are capable of total resistance, manufacturing weapons and armament, as the West is, being technically oriented, being work/labour oriented, being industrious, having concern for our values, dignity, faith, and, of course, when we are a united economic community, then, only, we will be taken seriously by the leading nations of the world.

The times of the present and future will dictate that economics is the name of the game. The competition is fierce and the time is right to cultivate the region. Europe and Asia are becoming a powerful economic threat to the West. The main straw in the hands of the West is the Middle East that the Europeans and Asians rely on greatly since the Middle East is a vast consuming market and contains vital resources. The West's stronghold on the Middle East (Israel) is vital to keeping it the world economic controller. Furthermore, the geographical region of the Middle East is, to a large extent, still virgin, with untapped resources, or completely exploited.

The Arabs will be getting a temporary free ride on a vessel heading in the direction of trade, economics and financial power, all very necessary to the West and Israel. It has been concluded, a long time ago, that the way to rule the world is with resources and not military strength.

The Arabs tried to no avail, the game of the oil embargo in the 1970s to pressure Israel to heed to terms dictated by them. Arab timing was evidently wrong.

God help us the day when the West decides the free ride has ended. The future will be a matter of survival for the fittest. Possibly within the next decade or two, Israel and the West will attempt to form a modern industrial plantation of the Middle East. In the beginning, financial wealth to the Arab population will be like a blinding snowstorm, only to be gradually stripped away.

Despite the method by which the conflicting parties came to an agreement, the Arab nations need to work with the oppressors till they hopefully are capable of taking control of the reins of economics, industry, etc. The Arabs will have to get their act together and stop having a laid back attitude or nag over issues of no pertinence. Otherwise, the investment in the workings by the West and the Israelis, fearfully, will succeed in favour of the Israelis only.

A wrestling match is possibly in the making and the top four contenders are: a united Europe, a rising Asia, and a dominating West. The fourth contender (Israel) is lurking for the right moment to enter the arena when the strongest contenders are exhausted and nursing their wounds. This unexpected fourth contender may take full control of the region.

Sa'id Abdul Rahman,
P.O. Box 960375,
Amman.

Biased coverage, poor organisation

To the Editor:

The target of my letter are our newspapers. I was surprised to find some of our respected papers cover the Kingdom's finals of the national bodybuilding championship, at the Palace of Culture on Sept. 2, 1993, in a positive way, full of praise when, to the contrary, all it deserved was criticism.

I regretfully say that what the public had to witness was a most disgraceful, pathetic performance; organisation, if there was any, was a disaster; the music was poor; the spokesperson lacked confidence and the translation of his presentation in English was full of mistakes.

Many participants were denied the chance to perform because of poor schedule arrangements. World champion Mustafa Hassan could not perform at first because of music failure and the public had to leave only to be called back to watch another performance.

The newspapers, that is those that covered the event, praised the organisers and I do not know why and how. I do not know who to blame either, but I will start with newspapers because if something is wrong, you should bring it to light in order to make it right.

Khattab Salama,
Amman.

How U.S. was left out of Mideast pact

By Ruth Sinai

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When it comes to Middle East peacemaking, the United States isn't accustomed to being a bystander. From the complex 1971-75 military disengagement between Israel, Egypt and Syria to the historic 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and the 1991 Mideast peace talks, the United States always has been smack in the middle — adviser, coach, midwife.

So it must have been galling for the legions of diplomats who have worked the Arab-Israeli dispute for years to wake up 10 days ago and hear of a breakthrough agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — worked out secretly in the Norwegian woods without help from Washington.

"The United States played a very minor role — if any," says Rep. Lee Hamilton, Democrat from Indiana, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The irony wasn't lost on anyone. Israel had worked a deal with its most hated enemy, the PLO — and the United States wasn't even on speaking terms with the Palestinian group.

For years, the United States and Israel walked in lockstep on the question of the PLO. But when Israel's left-leaning Labour government concluded late last

year that it needed the PLO in order to prevent the collapse of peace talks with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the United States was not convinced.

By dint of this scepticism, the administration dealt itself out of the game even as it repeatedly described itself as "full partner" in the Arab-Israeli peace talks launched by the Bush administration in October 1991 and taking place in Washington for the past 21 months.

To be fair, if it hadn't been for those talks — which got Israel and the Palestinians to sit down and talk with each other about self-government in the territories — the back-channel talks in Norway probably would not have taken place as they did this year.

Also, the formula for self-government worked out by Israel and the PLO is said to closely resemble a document proposed by the United States to overcome a stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Washington.

And even though the Clinton administration still doesn't recognise the PLO, it's not like the United States didn't try in the past. In the twilight of the Reagan presidency, then-Secretary of State George Shultz risked wrath of Congress to launch a dialogue with the PLO — but only after Yasser Arafat

publicly renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist.

It barely lasted 18 months. When a PLO faction flagrantly violated Mr. Arafat's promise by launching an abortive attack on a Tel Aviv beach, the dialogue was stopped.

And not a minute too soon for Israel, which had from the start insisted that the PLO — Mr. Arafat's pledges notwithstanding — had not for a moment stopped its terrorism.

When President Bush began efforts to bring Israel and the Arabs to the negotiating table, Israel again insisted that the PLO be excluded.

And so it was. Secretary of State James Baker, in a move worthy of master contortionists, worked out a formula that kept the PLO out — at least on paper.

But as the negotiations went on, it became clear that the absence of the PLO was a charade. Invariably, the Palestinian delegation would stop off in Tunis on its way to or from Washington to consult at PLO headquarters on strategy and tactics of negotiations with Israel.

Then a top Arafat aide, Nabil Shaath, was allowed to come to Washington to serve as a permanent adviser to the delegation. Just an adviser, mind you — with direct phone lines to Tunis. The fig leaf started wearing

really thin when three senior Palestinian representatives — including the delegation's high profile spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi — were appointed to PLO positions last month after they threatened to resign from the talks.

Administration officials argue that the Israel-PLO accord vindicated their repeated insistence that direct talks between the Mideast adversaries is the only way to peace, and that the United States can't do for them what they won't do for themselves.

There may be something to do, says William Quandt who played a key behind-the-scenes role in the 1979 Israel-Egypt treaty. When President Anwar Sadat made his groundbreaking visit to Israel in November 1977, he didn't consult with the Carter administration, Mr. Quandt says.

It was only when he had made his difficult decision and needed U.S. help to translate his gesture into a peace treaty that he turned to Washington.

And that's what Israel's government appears to be doing now that it has made its own difficult decision to — de facto — recognise the PLO. And what about U.S. recognition of the PLO? The administration promises that if Israel makes its recognition formal, Washington won't be far behind.

By Anne Senior
Reuter

New dictionary records the era of grunge, quarks and AIDS

LONDON — Grunge, punk, scuzz, dweeb, quark, yuppie, AIDS, glasnost, political correctness, female condom, floppy disc.

All these terms testify to 20 years of linguistic and social history recorded in a new edition of the Oxford English Dictionary — the bible of the serious student and general guide to the language.

A revised new shorter Oxford English Dictionary replacing the old 1973 edition is about to roll off the presses with a host of words unknown in the era of the Beatles and moon-landings, when computers were often bulky machines and a mouse was still just a rodent.

Publisher Oxford University Press bills its work as "the fullest general dictionary of contemporary English" and "the dictionary publishing event of the decade" after 13 years of research and a \$3

million pound (\$4.5 million) investment.

But this is no pocket reference book for the poor speller, coming in two fat volumes containing 7.5 million words of text and costing £60 (\$90) for the basic set and £70 (\$105) for one with a thumb index.

Around 10,000 copies of the dictionary are sold a year. First published in 1933 and revised every 20 years, the book has acted as a catalogue of new words entering the language and the changing meanings of older expressions.

American street slang, the vocabulary of the disease AIDS, and political fashions like free-market Thatcherism and Reaganomics all make a first appearance among the

500,000 entries in the modern lexicon launched on Sept. 7.

"I think that you would find that in the 70s edition there was a very narrow range of words that were new to the post-war world. The bulk of the dictionary reflected a taking-stock of language before the middle of the century," said lexicographer Edmund Weiner who worked on the dictionary team.

Traditionalists who regard Oxford English as a standard of gentility may be shocked to find a wide selection of derogatory terms — dweeb (boringly conventional, puny or studious person), scuzz (unpleasant person), gonzo (crazy person), plonker (foolish or inept person) and many more.

"There may be some criticism but this reveals an awareness that all current dictionaries include a wide range of slang," said Mr. Weiner in an interview. "If you describe language in its current form you have to describe all of it, not decide what is good English and bad English."

But the new word which has really captured Britain's imagination is not an insult, at least not officially. Majorism, defined as the political and economic policies of British Prime Minister John Major, drew hoots of laughter from newspaper critics who said the explanation was as bland and ineffectual as the British leader's political agenda.

The Independent newspaper has challenged readers to come up with a better definition of the word, offering a first prize of a trip to Maastricht, the Dutch town where the European Community (EC) drew up its blueprint for closer union.

Surprisingly, Maastricht does not appear in the dictionary although the much-publicised policy of subsidiarity, the idea of devolving power from EC bureaucrats in Brussels to local level wherever possible, does find a place.

Readers' suggestions for Majorism include: "Morbid love of indecision and false promises", "a form of genteel prevarication in politics" and "a nervous disease causing the sufferer to imagine themselves a world statesman whilst everyone else considers them a standing joke".

Real dictionary entries reflect a world where science and technology have made laptop a household word and given technical terms like quark, a sub-atomic particle, some common currency.

Punk rock and grunge (a musical style characterised by a raucous guitar sound and a lazy delivery) are noted as well the phenomena of masculinism, a male response to feminism meaning advocacy of men's rights, and political correctness, conformity to a body of liberal or radical opinion.

The growth of world markets in the boom 1980s brought big bang, meaning financial deregulation as well as the violent explosion of matter in space, and meltdown to mean a steep drop in value. It was the age of the yuppie (young urban professional) sporting the filofax (personal organiser).

Wordsmiths can also savour obscure words such as ovoid, the killing of a sheep and the last word in the book, Zythum, an ancient malt drink.

Haute couture toils at cutting edge of fashion

By Samantha Conti
Reuters

ROME — At the end of the show, as applause swells and the designer blows kisses to the audience, a small group backstage is already preparing for tomorrow.

For the seamstresses, embroiderers and fabric cutters of a fashion house, the show is never over.

"Since the month before the show, I've had no contact with the outside world," said Antonietta Ieronimo, a 30-year-old seamstress working for the Neapolitan designer Fausto Sarli.

The day after Sarli showed his empire dresses and gold filigree gowns, Ieronimo and her colleagues were back in the workshop.

They were cutting fabric designs for outfits clients had just ordered from the new collection, or putting the finishing touches to wedding gowns, orders for which seem unceasing.

For the men and women behind the scenes, seasons never begin or end. Hours are long, weekends hardly exist and the clothes they make are undersold.

Haute couture clothing is always made by hand from the best fabrics. The mark of couture is craftsmanship and a dress that feels just as good on the inside as it looks on the outside.

Little wonder its artisans are fiercely proud of their work.

Seamstresses are quick to describe how they can put together a wedding gown from almost nothing, by stitching together handmade squares of lace or swirls of embroidery or stitching patterns on delicate silk tulle.

Ieronimo, who made the wedding gown which appeared in Sarli's show last month, said she embroidered more than 50 metres of tulle to make the veil and dress.

In a country where many people find jobs by means of a "raccomandazione" — help from an influential person — fashion artisans say their work requires fine skills and talent for which no string-pulling could ever be a substitute.

"There is no improvisation in this business," Ieronimo said. "No one in the world could get you in here if you don't have the talent or qualifications."

A colleague from another

design house agreed. "You have to work hard, but most importantly you have to be talented," said Marilena Digilio, a seamstress for 24 years who works with designer Raniero Gattinoni.

Another seamstress working for Gattinoni also said talent was paramount.

"Here you start from zero," she said as she cut fabric for the lining of a wedding gown. "You learn how to hold a needle and thread and make simple stitches, then we see if the talent shows through."

Workshops are divided among those who are best at working with heavy cloth, known as "pesantiste", and those who are more talented with lighter fabric, known as "leggeriste".

Others are specialists at cutting fabric, still others at embroidery.

Because they are proud of their work, many feel the dresses and outfits they make are undersold, even if the price range of an haute couture dress is between \$10,000 and \$200,000 — depending on the fabrics and the design.

"These dresses are always a bargain," Digilio said, "no figure could possibly equal the work and the time that goes into making them."

Industry experts say designers are often forced to choose between selling their clothing below cost or not selling at all to the world's 3,000 haute couture customers.

Despite the long hours and the frustration, artisans say they could not imagine doing any other job.

"Every since I was young and I heard my mother's scissors cutting fabric, I knew I had to do this job," said 25-year-old Franca Testa, who works for Sarli.

"My teachers tried to discourage me — they wanted me to go to college — but I wanted this."

Women like Testa are becoming rare. Today, many potential artisans are entering the ready-to-wear field because it is more profitable.

Others, according to Rome's Artisans' Union, would rather start their own businesses than work for the big designers.

Digilio said traditional haute couture artisans were disappearing.

"There are other jobs that pay more and require less work," she said. "You do this job for love."

Judging IQ by appearance is not very smart — study

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Just how intelligent do you look?

You get smart points if you're attractive, wear a friendly, self-assured expression beneath stylish hair and sport a well-proportioned body, a new study suggests.

You get demerits if you look unrefined, dress unfashionably or informally and have a round face or a stout body.

None of that, however, reveals much about how intelligent a person really is, at least as measured by standard tests, the study found.

But even a brief listen to

the way you talk — apart from what you say — may give strangers a better indicator of brainpower, reports psychology professor of Peter Borkenau of the University of Bielefeld in Germany.

Prof. Borkenau described his research Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. Although the work was done in Germany, he said he believed the results would be similar in the United States.

Researchers have largely overlooked the question of how people perceive intelligence in others, said Delroy Paulhus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. But now that psycho-

logists are moving away from using IQ as the sole indicator of intelligence, a closer look at what people consider signs of intelligence may give some clues for other measures, he said.

In Prof. Borkenau's study, 18 college students were asked to look at videotapes of 100 male and female strangers who, one by one, walked into a room, sat down, read a weather forecast aloud, then got up and left.

After each 90-second scene, the students were asked either to judge how intelligent each stranger was or rate the person on 48 characteristics that might be used to judge intelligence.

The 12 students who judged intelligence were split equally between those who heard the strangers as well as seeing them and those who could not hear the sound. That let Prof. Borkenau separate appearance cues from sound cues, and compare them to results of a standard intelligence test administered separately to the strangers.

Students who had watched the silent tape did not do significantly better than random guessing in judging intelligence. Analysis showed that 16 of the 18 physical cues they apparently relied on were not related to

actual intelligence, with the exceptions being a self-assured expression and an avoidance of stiff walking.

Students who could hear the strangers, however, assessed verbal intelligence moderately well "and considerably better than chance," Prof. Borkenau said in an interview. Verbal intelligence deals with language.

Helpful cues included the ease with which the strangers were understood and the lack of an unpleasant voice or halting or hectic speech. The sound cues did not give the listeners any hint as to the strangers' non-verbal intelligence.

In a separate presentation, psychologist Robert Hogan of the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma said he believes intelligence "exists in the eye of the beholder," and that it is perceived differently in different kinds of occupations.

His work found that diesel mechanics consider their colleagues to be intelligent if they can solve technical problems by themselves and serve as a consultant to others on technical problems.

On the other hand, he said, in jobs that involve dealing in abstract concepts, like being a psychologist, "you don't have to do anything, you just have to talk smart."

overwhelming support the PLO receives from the Palestinians — Middle East International.

Donald Neff

The mysteries of reality

Waiting In The Future For the Past To Come
By Sabiha Khemir
Quartet Books, London 1993, £13.95

Most of us, I think, reach an age when we want to recover our childhood and formative years, and make some sense of them. But we are separated by two barriers, that of time and that of a changed world. Things simply are no longer the same — the material world has changed, and to some extent so have the things people do. But more than we seek the intangible qualities of our childhood, hoping that the past will help inform the present.

For an exile the task must be much harder. Sabiha Khemir, better known as an authority on Islamic art and for her book illustrations, has tried to explore the "otherness" of these years through a work of autobiographical fiction. She has produced something that is very Arab in its worldview, as exemplified in its title. And in its prose style it is reminiscent of Islamic decorative forms. Let me give an example of what I mean:

"I will tell you about reality until I reach the boundaries of credibility then I will tell you fiction. And I will tell you fiction until I reach the boundaries of imagination, then I will tell you about reality. I will tell you about mysterious realities and real mysteries. I will tell you about the mysteries of realities until I can do longer be credible, then I will tell you fiction... I will tell you a story and where I end, another one will start. And so every end is a start and every start is an end."

Well, not quite, or as each story leads on to another — not quite in the manner of A Thousand and One Nights — the continuity is sometimes lost, the only linkage being the narrator, Amina Ben Abd Al Slam who, like her creator, has a doctorate in architectural art. Her interlarded series of short scenes, some autobiographical and some mythical, carry occasional humour but above all a sense of mourning, partly for a world she has lost by time and by the separation of exile, and mourning too for the sterility of wasted lives. I am less certain about the profundity of Amina's story, and I failed to discover the "supreme hope and faith" of the dust-jacket blurb.

Where this book really scores, however, is in evoking the small-town atmosphere and changing values of Tunisia during the last gasp of the French protectorate in the 1950s and in the early days of independence. For this alone it deserves to be in the suitcase of every foreign visitor who plan to lounge on a Tunisian beach — Middle East International.

David McDowall

BOOK REVIEWS

convictions as much as from expediency. But then, is it not Washington's nature to ignore those who speak loudly but can pretend to carry a big stick? — Middle East International.

Max Rodenbeck

View from Egypt

From Camp David To The Gulf: Negotiations, Language & Propaganda, And War
By Adel Safy
Black Rose Books, Montreal/New York 1993, \$38.95/\$19.95 (pb)

Up to now, William Quandt's insightful Camp David has been the standard source for the aims and manoeuvres of Egypt, Israel and the U.S. at the historic meeting at Camp David in 1978. Now Adel Safy, an academic teaching at the University of British Columbia and specialising in Middle East studies, has significantly fleshed out the picture from the Egyptian perspective with accounts based on meticulous research in Egypt. As a result, anyone wishing to understand the Camp David process and its flaws from the Egyptian viewpoint must now consult his revealing, record in From Camp David to The Gulf.

As Safy observes, the gap between what President Anwar Sadat claimed were his achievements at Camp David and the dismal reality sent Egypt reeling for a decade because "it quickly became clear (to average Egyptians) that Camp David was used to separate Egypt from its Arab responsibilities and neutralise its military power to serve the interest of an imperial Israel bent on continued occupation and faster dispossession of the Palestinian people." Safy is persuasive in charting the result of such disillusionment — based on interviews with Egyptian officials and academics and readings in Arabic — and how it led to Egypt's imposition of the "cold peace" that Israel has claimed to be, so puzzled about.

Safy also provides a trenchant analysis, though less exclusive material, of the events leading to the war over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the hidden goals of the U.S. during the subsequent war against Iraq. He analyses in greater detail than others that the destruction of Iraq's military machine was the goal of the U.S.-Israeli axis, but not of the U.N. and that it resulted in Israel emerging as the region's undisputed dominant power. Safy also notes that the U.S. further aided Israel's ambitions by blocking the PLO leadership from taking part in the peace process begun in 1991 at Madrid supposedly because of its support for Iraq during the war. But, he points out, no matter how mistaken that position was it did not erode that legitimacy of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO's legitimacy is not derived from strategic calculations, or miscalculations, but from the

Constrained by dependence

Egypt's Bid For Arab Leadership: The Implications For U.S. Policy

By Gregory Aftandilian
Council On Foreign Relations, New York 1993, \$10.95

Ever since entering the modern era Egypt has envisioned itself as the major player in regional affairs. Yet from every cut of the cards it seems to emerge with a weak hand. Pride constrained by dependence: This is the central paradox of the Egyptian worldview, a paradox from which successive regimes have struggled to break free.

As the title of Gregory Aftandilian's brief monograph indicates, the Mubarak government is no different from its predecessors in this respect. Indeed, the past decade of Cairo's foreign policy can be seen as an effort to wean Egypt from the massive dependence on American aid bequeathed by Anwar Sadat at his death in 1981. But like Sadat, who fell into Jimmy Carter's arms in his hurry to escape from the clutches of the Krenalin, Mubarak is committing Egypt's future to reliance on outsiders, albeit this time to reliance on his wealthier Arab brothers. This shift, argues Aftandilian, who is after all a State Department analyst, contains the seeds of potential trouble with Washington.

Rightly, the author emphasises two key contributors to Egyptian policy formation: economics and domestic political pressures. In the past decade Egypt's relative dependence on American aid has declined, while its need for Arab markets — particularly as an outlet for surplus labour — has increased. U.S. funding now accounts for only a third of the external development aid Egypt receives (totalling over \$4b a year, which incidentally is three times the amount received by any other country). The debt write-off bonanza awarded after the Gulf war, furthermore, released Egypt from crippling indebtedness to the Pentagon. Partly as a result of these trends Cairo has felt less constrained to toe the American line over such issues as sanctions against Libya or the bombing of Baghdad.

Voicing opposition to Uncle Sam also plays up to public opinion, which Aftandilian describes the Mubarak regime as eager to placate. He notes that with the rapid erosion of the Nasser-era social contract from which the state draws legitimacy, the government has come to rely on others to fill the gaping holes in the Egyptian social fabric, such as the emerging entrepreneurial class and even — horrors — the Muslim Brotherhood.

While it is true that domestic economic and political pressures are driving forces behind Egypt's Arab rapprochement, Aftandilian's approach errs towards the dry cynicism which is all too typical of the atmosphere at Foggy Bottom. What he does not say is that some elements of Egyptian policy — for example, supporting the Palestinian claim to East Jerusalem — arise from deeply held

'Pink Panther' easier without Sellers

By Kimberly Daily
Reuter

NEW YORK — Blake Edwards says he'll keep making Pink Panther films as long as they keep making money and that in some ways it will be easier without Peter Sellers around.

Working with Sellers as bumbling Inspector Clouseau through seven incarnations of the Pink Panther series, which began with 1964's A Shot In The Dark, was not always a picnic, Edwards says.

"The worst times and the best times were Sellers," Edwards, the director of all the Panther films, recalled in a recent interview with Reuters. "He was totally, predictably unpredictable."

Sellers died in 1980 at the age of 55 and is being replaced by Italian actor and directing star Roberto Benigni, who plays Jacques Clouseau Jr in the newest sequel Son Of Pink Panther.

Edwards said the Pink Panther is more than a movie series. He describes it as a multimillion-dollar business with enormous merchandising potential.

But the business began to decline a couple of years after Sellers' death, he says, due

mainly to frequent management changes at the major studios.

Edwards, longtime husband of British actress Julie Andrews, owns half of the Pink Panther rights and has fought to bring the series back to life.

While searching for the right Clouseau Jr, Edwards considered French actor Gerard Depardieu among others until someone pointed out Benigni in Jim Jarmusch's Down By Law.

Edwards recognised "a rare talent" and cast him before they met.

Edwards said he encouraged Benigni to improvise as much as possible during the shooting. In keeping with the Clouseau tradition, Benigni proved to be quite capable accident-prone.

He landed in the hospital several times during production from doing his own stunts, but he's nobody's fool.

"Behind his clown's act is a very bright mind," Edwards says. "He is very motivated."

Clouseau's now-famous characteristics — particularly his fractured French pronunciation, imitated from a French hotel concierge he once met — were honed over years by Sellers.

This week's Diary does not appear due to technical problems. We regret any inconvenience caused to its regular readers

A pack of ten?

By Jean-Claude Elias

The dramatic decrease of personal computer (PC) prices in the last few years has been a blessing for all the private users who could only dream of possessing such a machine in the past. We are all aware of that and certainly see it as a good thing. An American specialist once interestingly noted that if the prices of cars had gone down proportionally to PC's during the past twenty years, a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow would now cost about \$5.

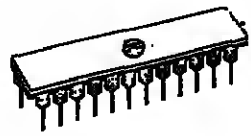
Computers were previously (when they were still relatively expensive) considered as an investment. They have now been reduced to the lower status of standard consumer products and follow a very steep curve of obsolescence. A middle-of-the road 386 PC is cheaper than a sophisticated stereo system, video camera or high definition TV set. Even worse. One can reasonably expect to keep and enjoy using a new stereo without finding it too outdated after ten years, but a ten years old PC would look like a "dinosaur", a word often used to describe a very old computer.

People who buy a PC and are not aware of the market trends are shocked when they find that they can hardly resell their computer for half of its purchase value, only six months later. Trying to get some money from a PC after two years of usage is virtually impossible. Such severe devaluation is not typical to the regular, above mentioned consumer products. The fact that there is an important innovation in the computer field — whether in hardware or software, an average of two times a year — is the main reason behind the critical situation in PC prices. Whenever a new feature is introduced, previous models' prices automatically go down.

This summer has seen an exception to the rule. The Sumitomo plant in Japan, which used to supply 60 per cent of the world's resin for the chips (ICs — integrated circuits) manufacturing was completely destroyed by a fire. As was expected, the cost of ICs went up as much as 100 per cent immediately after. Some saw this as a reversal of the trend, but it was only an accident in the curve and prices are again on the decrease.

The personal computer has not only become a mass consumer commodity, it has fallen into the "disposable" category along with razor blades and paper tissue even if we do not yet throw it in a waste basket. Not realising this can be a very traumatic experience for the buyer.

chip talk



Companies who have been using PCs for a while have learnt their lesson well. They plan their data processing budget carefully and consider that the machines are amortised, accounting wise, in four years, typically. After such a period, the "books value" of the computers becomes nil, even if they remain practically operational.

Private users have tougher times. Unless they are ready to bear the expenditure whatever it is, or do enough productive work with their PC to justify the amount spent, they often find the PC's cost prohibitive if it is just to play a few games or get some computer training without an effective target. It is just a matter of knowing in advance what money is being spent and how.

To alleviate the pain, the computer industry proposes some tranquillisers. Alas, they do not always work as well as Valium and Librium tablets. To minimise the loss a PC owner endures, he is offered the option to upgrade his or her machine in order to keep it up-to-date and therefore maintain some of its original value.

Such upgrades consist of adding memory or replacing some of the system's components like the monitor or the hard disk for instance with newer ones. Other solutions are in adding a math co-processor, to increase the processing speed of some PC models. While all of these enhancements are worth the undertaking, they cannot always be technically implemented — some components cannot be installed on others, etc. — Computer dealers will give you a thousand reasons why a specific, long awaited option can't work on your machine.

The magic protection against PC's disposability doesn't exist. All that mortals can do is to always buy the latest, newest available model and, more effectively, to make the best possible use of their computer while they have it.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- * At Nagoya seaport in Japan there exists the biggest fish aquarium in the world. It weighs 66,500 tonnes.
- * The Macaque monkeys are discriminated by their complicated system of communication. Each family has its own accent that would aid them to give a certain sign when exposed to imminent dangers.
- * An American keeps a large collection of medical equipment including 2,000 devices among which there are a vacuum hat that restores hair growth, and a chair for treatment by electricity.
- * Robert Ripley, a name associated with the "Believe It Or Not" newspaper column, was the first radio announcer whose voice was simultaneously heard both in Europe and America.
- * In 1927, The "Believe It Or Not" editor published a piece of information stating that Charles Lindbergh was not the first to cross the Atlantic by plane. Consequently, he received torrents of letters all asking him why that was so!

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

The weather

- The weather is still characterised by high relative humidity.
Lazala al-jaww yatamayyaz bhar'itla' nisbi fee darajet ar rutaba.
- There will be a strong heat wave.
Sawfa yakoon honak mawja harariya shadceda.
- There will be a slight fall in temperature.
Sawfa yakoon honak huboot taffi fee darajet el harara.
- The sun shines all the year round.
Al-shams tasta' tawal as sana.
- We are in for a fine spell. *Nahnu ala alwab jaw jameel.*
- We are favoured with magnificent climate.
Nahnu nafatamta' bi manakh hadi'.
- It's splendid and refreshing. *Al jaww rai' wa mion'ish.*

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Hibernation

- Spending of winter in a dormant state, keeping body activities to minimum.
- Practised by some fish, reptiles and animals, notably bears and narrots.
- Contrasted with hibernation is "aestivation (summer sleep)" that survives a hot dry summer.
- When food becomes scarce in winter some birds and animals migrate to warmer regions, but others get into as comfortable and safe a place as possible and hibernate, or go to sleep, for some months. Hedgehogs, badgers, tortoises, bats and frogs all do this.
- Principal changes that physically accompany hibernation:
 - Temperature falls to within a few degrees of that of the air.
 - Heart-beat becomes slow and feeble.
 - Respiration almost stops.
 - Alimentary canal and excretory organs cease to operate, but life is maintained by the absorption of fat stored in the tissues during autumn.
- Takes place in caves, hollow trees and underleaves.

TIME FOR FUN

- The old man sitting on the bank of a stream, fishing, looked very hot and a little tired. A stranger stopped to pass the time of day and asked the old fellow if he had had any luck.

"I can't complain," said the old fellow bravely.

"Well, why don't you come along with me and have a glass of beer," the other suggested, "it might brace you up a bit."

The old man slung his pole over his shoulder and accompanied the man to the tavern where they both sipped cool draughts of lager. The stranger then bought two cigars and gave the old man one.

"Tell me, old timer," said the stranger, "how many fish have you caught this morning?"

"You are the fourth this morning, sir," replied the old man.

- Two prisoners were watching a newcomer being ushered into the detention pen.

"What's he in for?" asked one.

"Aw, I guess he's nuts," the other informed him. "He didn't kiss his wife for four years, then he shot another guy who did."

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

FAME: To dream of achieving fame yourself is a sort of dream of contrary and suggests you are trying to grasp something which is beyond your reach; high aims are commendable but it's healthier to keep them within reasonable bounds. However if your dream involved a famous person, keep trying, because you'll get help from some unexpected source.

MUSIC: Beautiful, harmonious music, heard in a dream, augurs great good fortune in all that deeply concerns you, but unpleasant, cacophonous, or out-of-tune music signifies discord in personal relations and/or business difficulties.

PUZZLES

(I) ODD MAN OUT

FOUR have something in common, the other is the "Odd Man Out". You have to decide which.

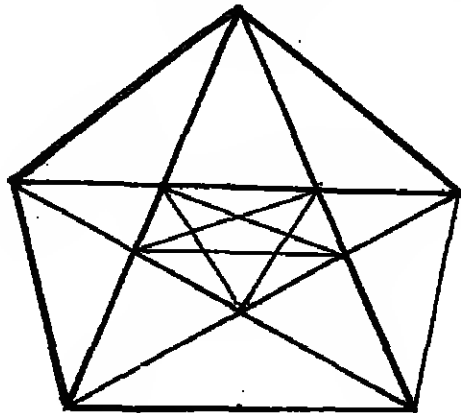
- a- BARRACAN, BAFT, BATISTA, BODEGA, BOMBAZINE.
- b- BROWN, INDIGO, GREEN, YELLOW, ORANGE.
- c- ROSE, DAFFODIL, SHAMROCK, THISTLE, LEEK.
- d- KRAIT, KOALA, KOB, KYLOE, KUDU.

(II) HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

Have you a clear head? If you haven't, don't try counting the number of triangles in this diagram. At a rough guess, how many would you say there are?

Twenty? Forty? Sixty?

You're in for a surprise when you look at the solution!



Tomorrow, peace, and the sons of Cain

By E. Yaghi

My name is Faris Mohammad, I am 18, and I am waiting for my tomorrow when there will be peace in this land of my fathers and forefathers who tilled the sweet dark soil in the lost days of roses and honey. Those were the days, I was told, when my grandfathers were the rich owners of acres and acres of land, further than the eye could see, where cows and sheep grazed in the land of plenty, a place where red poppies carpeted the unsullied plains and sea gulls flocked to fish upon the fertile sea. In this peaceful land, the dream of freedom never seemed very far away.

But one day, the sons of Cain and their cohorts stormed into my sacred land, the cradle of civilisation and home of the ancient prophets, to murder, plunder, pillage and wrench my homeland away from its rightful owners.

I was born in tears and pain and anger in a miserable refugee camp but my father though out of work for some time, braggled to his friends: "At last, my wife had a boy and his name is Faris!"

Everyone is poor in our camp so there were no baby showers or post natal gifts for my weary mother, but there were some smiles and words of "Congratulations," even though my future looked quite bleak from the start.

After the promise of impending peace and the return of Gaza and Jericho, some of the inhabitants of my camp were skeptical, some disappointed and some even hopeful. The feelings mixed with the heat of summer and the odors of neglected sewers and scattered rubbish. There was much talk in my small house with the tin roof which leaked during winter rains and I was very confused, but a feeling of hope lingered in the air and for dinner, for a change, we had some biscuits after tea with milk as a special treat for me. I went to bed early because tomorrow was to be a big day for me. Father and I had an appointment at the UNRWA clinic where I was to see my doctor for a check-up. Although I never liked having anything to do with medicine or nurses, my father insisted that I go.

Next morning, I woke up early and sat in the middle of the room on the cold cement floor waiting until Mother prepared our simple breakfast of tea and bread. Since my Dad had been out of work for some time now, we felt we were lucky to get even that. I became impatient and screamed at my mother for some food.

"Hush," she scolded, "soon the tea will be ready and then you can have some bread!"

Shunned, I looked at my father who always took my side. "Get Faris's breakfast ready now! You must not keep us men waiting forever for just a cup of tea!"

"He's too spoiled, you know that don't you? How will he ever learn to cope in this troubled world of ours?"

"There's time enough for that. Just prepare our breakfast fast so that we won't be late for our doctor's appointment."

So we drank our tea with a taste of mint, ate some dry bread which we dipped in our steaming cups and got ready

to go to the UNRWA clinic. Outside, the day was hot as usual and I noticed beads of sweat form on my father's forehead and roll down his face until he wiped it with his handkerchief. Not far ahead, we noticed some Israeli soldiers armed to the teeth with all kinds of fearful weapons. What were they planning to do? Would they throw me into jail too? But my father pushed me by the arm and coaxed me by saying in his soothing voice: "Don't worry son, just keep walking and don't pay attention to them. We're almost there at the clinic."

I scuffed my shoes in the dirt and watched the brown dust swirl up into the tense air. I grabbed my father's hand and got closer to him. We neared some parked cars. I slid my fingers over the silver smooth fender of a bright red car. How fine it would be if my father owned a car like that! Then maybe he would take me away from these soldiers and even let me drive it someday. Suddenly, I heard the familiar sounds of guns and something tore a burning hole through my chest. I slumped down in the dirt and heard my father yelling: "My son, he's been hit, he's bleeding! Help! Help!"

My blood felt warm and sticky as it seeped out of my body and soaked the merciless dust near the bright red car I had so recently admired. Then, I felt my soul rise out of my body and fly to heaven where I now live. I miss my parents very much, but I am divinely happy where I presently reside.

The day of my funeral I heard my father sobbing though my body seemed still and lifeless. It didn't take many people to carry my coffin because I wasn't very heavy and many people shouted because they were outraged by my death. If only I could now fly down to my father and tell him in my angel voice that he should not worry about me anymore for I reside in Paradise.

A few days after my funeral, they dynamited my parent's home because the sons of Cain announced that I was a terrorist and on the day of my death I was hiding behind a car in order to attack the Israeli soldiers. My father presently stays in a tent near the rubble of our small hut, slumped and crying and saying to those who come to pay their condolences: "Faris was only 18 months old. He never lived to be two, yet the Israeli government claims he engaged in terrorist activities. He was just a baby, my only son, my only child! Now I have no house, no job, no son. What is there left to live for?"

Will there ever be peace in the Land of Milk and Honey? Will the sons of Cain ever relinquish any of Palestinian territory to my people? Will there be a tomorrow where the children of the future can play, sing and be free once again in the country that is rightfully theirs? I am going to sing songs of peace on my harp and wait for the day when the sun will smile once more and toddlers like me won't be named terrorists before they even learn how to talk in an occupation ruthlessly and cruelly ruled by usurpers who confiscated cherished Palestinian land with no thought of its inhabitants who have suffered immensely even before international recognition of the Israeli state.

JTV CHANNEL 2

WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 9

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Deadline For Henry

Henry is asked by the newspaper's owner to hand in all his caricatures as soon as possible, before the employers go on strike.

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Undue Force

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Perfect Profile

Starring: Nancy Lieberman and Mike O'dell



Head Of The Class Friday at 8:30

Friday, Sept. 10

8:30 Head Of The Class

The Way We Were

The students enter a contest on the history of New York City and Darlene wins.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Fish Out Of Water

Dicky works hard with a Hispanic female to clear his name and succeeds.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Breaking Up (Part I)

Saturday, Sept. 11

8:30 It's A Wacky World

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties — Foreigner In Concert

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Heart-break Hotel

Sunday, Sept. 12

8:30 Step By Step

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

The Thinking Machine

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Outsider

The Legacy

When John Wesley passes away, many members of his family become worried about his will. Finally they read his will and find out that he left a sum of £10,000 to the print-shop manager, £30,000 to a woman by the name of Mrs. Neil.

Monday, Sept. 13

8:30 Golden Girls

Dorothy is arrested for ignoring the building that she owns. All the tenants want to sue her.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Post Op

After discovering that she has cancer Nancy undergoes an operation.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Mini-Series — Le Gerfaunt

Le Gerfaunt saves the Queen's life after her boat catches fire. And after investigating he finds out that the one who wanted to kill the Queen was Le Gerfaunt's wife.

Tuesday, Sept. 14

8:30 People Next Door

Happy Birthday Baby

All the family celebrates Walter's birthday.

9:00 Faces and Places

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

Beating The Blizzards

This episode talks about the adventure a British team in the island of South Georgia, and about how to save the parrots in Argentina.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Easter Parade

Starring: Judy Garland and Fred Astaire

Don Hews, the famous dancer, is shocked to find that his dancing partner is becoming arrogant so he quits working with her and starts looking for another girl.

Wednesday, Sept. 15

8:30 The Torkelsons

There is never a dull moment when the crazy Torkelson family is around.

9:10 Documentary — Notre Siecle

This episode talks about the most important events that took place between the years 1980-1990, such as destroying the statue of Lenin in Russia, the revolution in Romania.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Ashenden

The Traitor

Ashenden goes to Germany to uncover an English traitor. He succeeds and the traitor is arrested in France.

Venice Film Festival turns to sure-fire hits

By Clare Pedrick
VENICE — Steven Spielberg, Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, maybe even Madonna — it is years since the Lido attracted such famous faces to its annual movie festival, almost all of them from across the Atlantic. This year's star-studded line-up is a deliberate ploy by artistic director Gillo Pontecorvo to put Venice, whose image has become faded in recent years, right back on the movie map. But his insistence on going for established names, and above all U.S. ones, has earned him bitter criticism from some corners of the cinema industry.

Opponents of Pontecorvo's new policy accuse him of

being dazzled by the slick, glitzy products pumped out by Hollywood, at the expense of talented Third World movie-makers, whose work has this year been largely ignored.

In sharp contrast to previous festivals, when Venice has shown itself to be generous to low-profile filmmakers, this fall's event has a decidedly Yankee flavour: 13 of the 30 major movies due to be screened during the 12-day bonanza are American productions. Many are highly commercial in tone, almost certain to be box-office smashes. Some will be receiving their premieres at Venice. Others have already been released in the U.S. At least

one — *In The Line Of Fire* starring Clint Eastwood — has so far grossed almost \$100 million in its first month.

This year, there are no entries from such previously fertile sources of fresh talent as India, North Africa or Eastern Europe, to which Venice has devoted serious attention in the recent past. The closest Pontecorvo comes to changing his arm is with a movie titled *Kosh Ba Kosh*, directed by Bakhtyar Khudonazarov, from Tajikistan, one of only four entries from the developing world competing for the prized Golden Lion award. The others are *Za Zui Zi*, directed by Liu Miaomiao of China, *You Seng by Hong Kong's Clara Law*, and an Argentine entry, *De Eso No Se Habla* — (That's Something We Don't Talk About), directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg.

These unknowns are competing against the likes of Madonna in *Soake Eyes* directed by Abel Ferrara, *Short Cuts* by Hollywood veteran Robert Altman and *Even Cowgirls Get The Blues*, a raunchy tale liberally spiced with sex scenes by America's bad-boy director Gus Van Sant. Other movies being screened, though not part of the competition, include Steven Spielberg's dinosaur epic *Jurassic Park*, Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, Martin Scorsese's *The Age Of Innocence*, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day-Lewis, and *The Fugitive*, with daredevil hero Harrison Ford in the lead role.

The selection has proved a controversial one. In an open letter to Pontecorvo, Algerian movie-maker Mahmoud Zeinouni accused the Italian festival director of ignoring his own movies and those of other Third World directors in favour of more glamorous sure-fire winners. Similar criticism has been voiced by *Maddalena 93*, a group of mainly European directors who are part of a growing campaign against

what they claim to be the U.S. colonisation of European television and cinema. Festivals such as Venice, say the *Maddalena 93* movie-makers, should devote their energies and efforts to promoting home-grown or hidden talent, instead of pandering to the razzmatazz U.S. film industry where budgets are high and takings all-important.

Gillo Pontecorvo, Italian movie-maker and Venice festival director for the past two years, defends his choice claiming his selection was dictated by reasons of quality rather than geography. "In every country there are ups and downs as far as production is concerned. At Cannes this year, there were no Spanish films. And at Venice there will be no German films," he said in an interview. "Anyone who knows me realises that I would like to have included more entries from the Third World. Those that have been selected seemed to me to be the best."

With 393 films to choose from, Pontecorvo was unable to see every single movie put forward for consideration. He was helped by a team of other movie experts. But he admits that he had set his heart on a festival of stars this year, the 50th anniversary of the Venice Film Festival. Pontecorvo explained that there is a pressing need to "give back glamour and strength" to the festival at a time when Venice is being more and more eclipsed by the ritzier Cannes Film Festival held over the border on the French Riviera in May each year. Venice, once the number one European appointment on the movie agenda, has all but been pushed into oblivion, and for the past 10 years, the U.S. cinema industry has deserted the Lido. "Last year, when I was in the U.S., it almost made me want to cry when I heard people ask me: 'Oh, is the Venice Film Festival still going?'" said Pontecorvo.

The message, it seems, is that Venice's commitment to

showing films by unknowns, many of them made on low budgets and dealing with themes of angst and inner turmoil, has done the festival a disservice. And that, says the Italian movie director, can only spell danger for the industry as a whole. He describes his strategy in lining up good commercial films for the festival as a dose of "methadone for a public addicted to easy-to-watch spectacles."

"Once they have had their interest roused by stars and spectacular movies, they may be tempted to get close to some really good cinema," he said.

In the recent past, says Pontecorvo, the Venice Film Festival has been too "gray" and too "boring." Those are the main enemies we have to fight against," he said. "If and when the festival regains its former strength and prestige, it will be in a better position to research, discover and support new talent," he added.

"It's impossible to become the world's most important film festival, as we are trying to do, if we continue to underestimate the importance of relationships with a movie industry as big and as vital as the American one. But that doesn't in any way mean giving up the fight against American colonialism."

Pontecorvo claims that in a job such as his, there will always be people ready to criticise his choices, whatever they may be. And in a sense, he is right. Last year, there were complaints that the programme was too daring, with not enough stars. Four of the 16 competitors for the Golden Lion award were first movies. The festival director was also much vilified for turning down *Unforgiven*, the U.S.-made blockbuster which went on to win an Oscar for its star Clint Eastwood. Today, Pontecorvo says he stands by his decision, which was made on the grounds of insufficient quality and originality.



Anjelica Huston and Woody Allen play a game of cards in a scene from *Manhattan Murder Mystery*

To give him his due, Pontecorvo can claim some credit for innovative additions to the usual festival line-up. One is the Authors' Assizes, launched last year, a series of debates and forums held by a panel of novelists and scriptwriters with the aim of breathing new life into the cinema. This year's authors will include Roman Polanski, John Landis, Poland's Jerzy Skolimowski and Italians Ricky Tognazzi, Ettore Scola and the Taviani brothers. Another new venture is the presence this year of 200 youngsters, all of them winners of a cinema contest held in Italy's high schools. The idea, says Pontecorvo, is to foster new talent and prepare the next generation of movie-makers.

Pontecorvo can also take some satisfaction from the fact that Robert De Niro chose this year's Venice festival for his baptism as a director — with his movie *A Bronx Tale* — and that Robert Altman turned down Cannes in favour of Venice for unveiling his *Short Cuts*.

Wooing such big names is not an easy task in recession-hit Italy. This year's festival, badly hit by a 1 billion lire (\$667,000) cut in government funding, is being run under the watchful eye of government auditors, who have embarked on a crusade to put an end to the lavish excesses for which Venice had become famous. This year, only a handful of government ministers have been invited, and the budget for hospitality has been drastically cut back, a far cry from the golden years when moose and champagne flowed for politicians, their girlfriends, secretaries and other hangers-on who spent between seven to ten days in the Lido's best hotels, running up bills of thousands of dollars.

In an investigation linked to the bribery and corruption scandal currently shaking Italy, 44 former festival administrators have been indicted for mismanaging public funds between 1979 and 1981, and between 1990 and 1992. Judge Antonio Vetri, president of Italy's Audit Office, has estimated that some

2,600 people were wined, dined and lodged at festival expense for no good reason in the past three years alone. This year, even the stars invited by the festival committee will be hosted for a maximum of three days and must pay their own hotel extras.

Barbra Streisand, originally due to sit on the jury, has been rejected on the grounds that she is "too expensive," says Pontecorvo. Her place as jury president was taken by Peter Weir, the Australian director who made *Dead Poet's Society*. Flanked by writers James Ivory, Cher Kaige, Nelson Pereira Dos Santos, Elliott Silverstein and movie critic Pierre Henry de Leau, As the film festival opened, the seventh jury member, Bosnian movie-maker Abdullah Sidran, was trapped in his native Sarajevo, unable to leave because of the civil war. Pontecorvo has asked Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta to intervene to secure Sidran a safe pass out of the stricken city — World News Link.

Most talked about movies at Venice

Competing for the Golden Lion

— **SHORT CUTS:** Directed by 68-year-old Robert Altman (USA), whose biggest hits have included *Nashville*, *The Long Goodbye* and more recently *The Player*. Based on eight short stories by the late American writer Raymond Carver, Altman's latest movie looks at the down-side of the American dream by tracing 22 characters, all of them set against the backdrop of seamy Los Angeles. Starring Jack Lemmon, Tim Robbins and Andie MacDowell.

— **SNAKE EYES:** Directed by Abel Ferrara (USA), starring Madonna, who also makes her debut as a producer. The tale of the breakdown and end of a marriage. For once, Madonna, who plays the wife, is cast in the role of a victim, a fragile blonde who ends up losing her husband.



Diane Keaton suspects a neighbour of murder in Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*

— **EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES:** Directed by Gus Van Sant. Actress Uma Thurman plays the part of a good-looking girl with a taste for adventure, who hitch-hikes her way around America and has a series of encounters, mostly of the sexual kind.

— **DE ESNO NO SE HABLA (THAT'S SOMETHING WE DON'T TALK ABOUT):** Directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg (Argentina). In a small town in Argentina lives a woman, Leonor and her daughter Charlotte, born a dwarf. A wealthy widower, played by Marcello Mastroianni, falls in love with the girl and asks to marry her. But the arrival of a circus in town upsets all the plans.

— **UN, DEUX, TROIS, SOLEIL (ONE, TWO, THREE, SUN):** Directed by Bertrand Blier (France). This film also stars Marcello Mastroianni, cast in the role of an alcoholic father, whose fondness for drink makes it hard for him to find his way home. Along the way, he picks up poor children, and takes them in off the street.

— **KOSH BA KOSH:** Directed by Bakhtyar Khudonazarov (Tajikistan). Mira sets out on a long journey from Russia to Tajikistan, in search of her father, who is a gambling addict. But when she finds him, she discovers that her father's vice has taken such a hold that he has lost all grip on reason. And when the stakes are down, he decides to sell even his daughter so he can have just one more game.

— **DOVE SIETE? IO SONO QUI (WHERE ARE YOU? I AM HERE):** Directed by Liliana Cavani (Italy). The story of a love that develops between two students, both of whom are deaf, and the hostility that their relationship provokes. Among the many obstacles blocking the young couple's path to happiness is a difference in social class. He comes from a well-to-do family. She is from a working class background.

— **ZA ZUI ZI (BIG MOUTH):** Directed by Liu Miaomiao (China). Minsheng, a small boy growing up in the Chinese town of Jixiang, is given the nickname *Za Zui Zi* because, say the grown-ups, he chatters too much. But Minsheng is a sharp observer when it comes to looking at the adult world.

Movies not part of the contest

— **THE AGE OF INNOCENCE:** Directed by Martin Scorsese (USA). Michelle Pfeiffer and Daniel Day-Lewis star in what has been billed as the most romantic movie of the decade, a period piece taken from the novel by Edith Wharton. The story traces the passionate love affair between Countess Ellen Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer) and the young lawyer Newland Archer (Daniel Day-Lewis) in puritan New York at the close of last century. May Welland (Winona Ryder), is Archer's real fiancée, strictly brought up by her mother (Geraldine Chaplin), and the exact opposite of her fascinating cousin Ellen.

— **A MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY:** Directed by Woody Allen (USA). A who-dunnit, Allen-style, his first

movie since his break-up with Mia Farrow and the scandal over his alleged mistreatment of the couple's children. Allen has described the movie as a film he made to enjoy himself, "a reward after what has been a very difficult year from a personal point of view." The movie stars Diane Keaton, who replaces Mia Farrow, as well as Anjelica Huston and Alan Alda and tells the story of how a middle-aged couple turn homicide sleuths after a murder breaks up their normally quiet existence.

— **BOXING HELENA:** Directed by Jennifer Lynch (USA). This young director is the 24-year-old daughter of David Lynch, of *Twin Peaks* fame. The bond is obviously a strong one. Her first major movie has a massive dose of the surreal and the bloodthirsty, just like her dad's. It traces the obsessive love of a brilliant surgeon who cuts off his beloved's arms and legs so he can serve her, closed up in a box shaped like a throne. The title role is played by Sherrylyn Flyn, who also starred in Lynch senior's bizarre cult-series *Twin Peaks*. She stepped in after Kim Basinger bowed out, landing herself with a whopping \$9 million fine for breach of contract.

— **IN THE LINE OF FIRE:** Directed by Wolfgang Petersen (USA). Clint Eastwood plays an ageing Secret Service agent fighting to prevent the assassination of the president of the United States. He is haunted by his failure, 30 years earlier, to foil the murder of former President John F. Kennedy.

— **DAVE:** Directed by Ivan Reitman, of *Ghostbusters* fame (USA). Another movie revolving around the president of the U.S., but with a very different style. Starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver, this is a fast-paced comedy about an ordinary guy, one Dave Kovic, who works in an employment agency and bears an uncanny resemblance to the president. He is hired to take his place so the real president can go and enjoy himself. Circumstance wills it that Dave has to stay on for longer than was planned, and there are those who would say he does a better job than the real incumbent of the White House.

— **WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT:** Directed by Brian Gibson (USA). Taken from singer-songwriter Tina Turner's autobiography, *I Tina*, this is the tale of the stormy marriage between Tina and Ike Turner, the musician who brought her from anonymity to international fame, but whose violence and infidelities proved too hard to stomach. The movie traces Tina's decision to take her kids and leave her husband, and how, from rock bottom, she started all over again to launch a fresh career, even more successful than the first. Tina is played by Angela Basset, who was Betty Shabazz, the wife of Malcolm X, in the movie of the same name by Spike Lee.

— **THE FUGITIVE:** Directed by Andrew Davis (USA). Harrison Ford, Hollywood's favourite daredevil actor, plays the doctor wrongly accused of murdering his wife, and his desperate flight from the electric chair on the trail of the real



Estranged from her husband, Countess Olenska (Michelle Pfeiffer) makes a new life in New York in Martin Scorsese's *The Age Of Innocence*

killer. The story is based on the best-selling TV series, also called *The Fugitive*, made 30 years ago, and avidly followed by viewers around the globe. Then, the doctor-on-the-run was played by David Jansen.

— **JURASSIC PARK:** Directed by Steven Spielberg (USA). A first showing in Europe for Spielberg's latest film, already proving to be a box-office smash in the U.S. Based on the best-selling book by Michael Crichton, the movie recreates a park owned by an eccentric American millionaire, who has cloned real-life dinosaurs to produce the world's most spectacular tourist attraction. Dazzling special effects, even by Spielberg standards.

— **A BRONX TALE:** Directed and produced by Robert De Niro (USA). De Niro makes his debut as a director with this movie, in which he also plays a leading role, that of a father locked in a desperate and hopeless battle to stop his son becoming mixed up in a dangerous underworld gang in the Bronx of the 1960s.

Unravelling just now the body makes and uses its own version of the drug may help efforts to design selective cannabis-based medicines in the future.

Dr. Pertwee expects drug firms, some of which have worked to no avail to produce cannabis derivatives in the past, will be cautious before committing new money to a controversial area.

"At the moment I think the drug companies are just waiting until the basic scientists come up with something they can apply," he said.

attracted to the yeast and the sheep will not commit suicide on a natural part of its diet.

"We also think you could use it to spray on your prize jumpers to protect them in storage."

Another issue may be in reducing the hazards faced by farmers in dipping sheep. A present the organophosphorus compound used to control the sheep skin parasite scab is extremely unpleasant to handle and has potentially hazardous side-effects. Spraying on an encapsulated insecticide may remedy these problems.

"Really your imagination is about the only limit in this business," Mr. Nelson said.

she could see coming out of Lena's stomach. Afterward, Ivanova crossed herself over and over and told Lena: "You have been very sick. Five metres I pulled out," and she pointed with disgust to the floor, where the spirits apparently lay coiled in a heap.

No escaping poverty for millions of peasants

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

QUAN NAO, China — The view from Li Liangyu's front door is of pastoral beauty: a small waterfall coursing down a green hill into a stream that winds lazily through a patchwork of rice paddies.

Turn around and walk inside, and the dingy hues of poverty take over, stretching across his floor of beaten dirt and cobblestones.

At the back of the cobwebbed main room of the decaying brick house is a plain wooden table surrounded by narrow benches. Primitive farm implements and wooden buckets lie about. There is nothing to look up to the thin electrical line except one bare lightbulb.

The store of food is as simple as the furnishings: rice, red chilies and corn. Since the fields do not yield a livelihood, the Li family harvests bamboo from the mountainsides, takes odd jobs and borrows money to ensure three meals of rice a day.

"Our standard of living is very bitter," said Li Shihong, 21, the second son in the seven-member family.

Six decades have passed since Mao Tse-tung and his communist rebels roamed the hilly backlands of Xingguo county, winning the support of peasants desperate to escape centuries of poverty by creating an egalitarian society.

Forty-four years after the communists gained power, the Li and tens of millions of other peasants remain mired in poverty, many with little hope of escape. The booming coastal cities of modern China are a world away.

Having three crippled teenagers and too little land make it difficult for the Li to rise beyond subsistence farming. Even so, they are better off in southeastern China than millions of peasants in the arid, infertile northwest and the mountainous southwest.

The Li, for example, have basic clothing and do not appear malnourished.

China's most destitute peasants cannot even afford matches or salt. Some have no furniture. Others live in caves in order not to encroach on the little arable land. In one region of Sichuan Province, brothers marry the same woman to reduce expenses, and mothers and daughters share one pair of trousers, the farmers' daily report.

Alan Piazza, a World Bank economist, has visited regions where peasants eat nothing but corn gruel and a bit of vegetable.

"Forty-four years after the communists gained power, tens of millions of peasants remain mired in poverty, many with little hope of escape. The booming coastal cities of modern China are a world away."

"Clearly they're deficient in protein and energy," he said. "There's rampant malnutrition."

Still, rural poverty has fallen dramatically in the decade since communists were dismantled in favour of family farms.

The World Bank estimates the number of "absolute poor" peasants — determined by a subsistence food basket — fell from 260 million in 1978, about one-third of the rural population, to 96 million in 1985. The Chinese government says 27 million lack adequate food and clothing.

In Xingguo, officials claim everyone has adequate food and clothing. There are new schools, an extensive road system and electrification. Some peasants have new homes, small motorcycles and cheap televisions.

But listen to the residents of Quan Nao village and it is clear

that progress is not equally shared.

When asked when he had last eaten pork, a neighbour of the Li pondered before replying: "the beginning of May."

Another, asked about recent purchases, seemed stumped, then said: "I haven't bought anything lately."

While the government encourages rich peasants and successful entrepreneurs to accumulate wealth, "few welfare measures... have been provided to cushion the fall of the families and individuals who are ill-equipped to compete," said Jonathan Unger, a China scholar at Australian National University.

As Li Shihong tells it, not only do officials give him no financial help, they levy taxes that he must pay in grain for lack of cash. Last year, he said, the bill came to 440 pounds (200 kilograms) of rice the family needed for food.

"The government doesn't care about us," Mr. Li said. His father added quickly: "The government doesn't have the funds to help."

Actually, the central government meets Xingguo county 5 million yuan (\$877,000) a year in poverty relief. But county officials say it is better to invest the money in projects that increase production than hand it out to needy families.

Even when the money is distributed, the needy do not always benefit. Mr. Unger found while travelling in impoverished Yunnan province that well-connected rich households were getting some of the relief funds.

He also found that the poorest peasants could not get loans for fertilizer because they lacked collateral.

"In these inland hill-district villages, a family that falls below a certain threshold can find itself caught helplessly in a downward spiral into slow starvation," he wrote in a research study.

Appropriations for China's anti-poverty programme declined

in real terms from 1985 to 1990 and no progress was made in reducing the number of poor, the World Bank reported.

State media gave prominent display recently to statements by an official that many of the neediest were being neglected as attention focused on developing rich coastal regions.

Nonetheless, Mr. Piazza said, by creating more job opportunities the coastal boom has probably enabled millions of peasants to rise above poverty.

Further progress will require substantial investment in rural education and health services, roads to connect the poorest regions with markets, and development of such basic industries as mining and food processing.

For the few million people of the most desolate regions, perhaps the only answer is resettlement, said Lin Wenpu of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"There are a lot of problems, though," he said. "Where would you move to? There's already a large population wherever you go."

The cost of resettlement — about \$1,750 per person — also is an obstacle.

Mr. Liu remains optimistic that China will be able to ensure all peasants adequate food and clothing by 2000.

Xingguo's poor do not appear so much angered by their lot as resigned to it. They do not hunger for the imported cognac, fancy cars and elegant fashions of the urban nouveau riche — a little more pork would be just fine.

Yao Shanzhang, 53, who lives down the road from the Li, is happy that his family now has steamed rice every day, a big step up from the watery porridge that was once their staple.

"I'm more satisfied with life than before," Mr. Yao said, but added wistfully: "I want so many things. I just don't have the cash to buy them."

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

AL OUJIA, West Bank — If Yasser Arafat ever returns to the West Bank he will find this village just north of his Jericho enclave almost as poor as it was before it fell to Israel in the 1967 war.

Al Oujia, like the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has missed a generation of economic development under Israeli occupation, its residents say.

Those who fled in 1967 to the neighbouring village of Shouneh on the East Bank of the River Jordan have prospered.

"Those on the other side, in Jordan, are much better off than us," said Mustapha Abu Jaroud, 57, who regularly visits his sister in Shouneh.

He reels off a list of benefits ranging from crop loans to telephones enjoyed by his erstwhile neighbours that Al Oujia can only dream of.

If the Israeli-PLO accord on interim self-rule is to mean anything to villagers like these it must bring a better standard of living.

Both Mr. Arafat and Israel need to pump in money to outflank Islamic and PLO opponents who find recruits among the thousands of unemployed Palestinian youths. Israel and the United States are looking for money from Europe, Japan and the six Gulf states that pledged their support for the accord this week.

The Gulf states cut off PLO funding during the 1990-91 crisis and war over Kuwait because Mr. Arafat supported Iraq. Neither the PLO nor the territories have recovered from the blow. Remittances from Palestinian workers in the Gulf dried up.

The fragile agricultural economies of the West Bank and Gaza were staggering again this year when Israel delivered a blow by sealing off the two million inhabitants of the territories after attacks on Jews.

Palestinian produce has rotted

Economy a key to Israeli-PLO accord success

For want of a market. The loss of cash earned by the 100,000 Palestinians who used to work in Israel has slashed consumption.

"We used to send a truckload of melons to Jordan for 1,200 to 1,700 dinars," said farmer Abu Waia. "Now we send our trucks only to (nearby) Nablus and we get 600 shekels (\$200)."

Mr. Arafat hopes to get about

University's Armand Hammer Fund says \$10 billion is needed to bring infrastructure close to Israel's level.

He says facilities, particularly the water supply, are creaking and unable even to sustain the residents' present standard of living.

Reliable figures about the territories are hard to find but several

three to four times lower than in Israel.

Most Palestinian and Israeli economists agree that a future Palestinian entity can thrive only by open trade with Israel and Jordan. If the five-year interim self-rule period works they predict Israelis will build factories and invest in the territories.

For the economists the damage and lost opportunities of a generation can be put right quickly. But as always in the Middle East it is politics as much as economics that will decide.

"With a good economic policy we can bridge the gap with Israel in five to 10 years," Mr. Abdullah maintains. "But for that we need a democratic way of life, social justice, enforcement of laws, and rights of property."

That, initially at least, may prove a tall order for a region like this.

"Economists forecast that more than \$10 billion will be needed to repair the damage done by 27 years of occupation. Israel has built minimum facilities in the (occupied) territories while taking most of its water and land, and taxing its residents to pay for their occupying army."

\$400 million in immediate donor aid to ease the worst effects of the past three years.

But economists forecast that more than \$10 billion will be needed to repair the damage done by 27 years of occupation. Israel has built minimum facilities in the territories while taking most of its water and land, and taxing its residents to pay for their occupying army.

Telephones, piped water and sewage systems are rare in the villages and refugee camps. Al Oujia has six phones for 3,000 people. Mr. Abu Jaroud applied for a phone in 1983 and is still waiting. The road to the university town of Bir Zeit with 10,000 residents is crisscrossed with potholes while the road to a nearby Jewish settlement with a few hundred residents is glassy smooth.

The World Bank has put forward a \$4.3 billion development plan for the next eight to 10 years.

But Yishai Dror of Tel Aviv

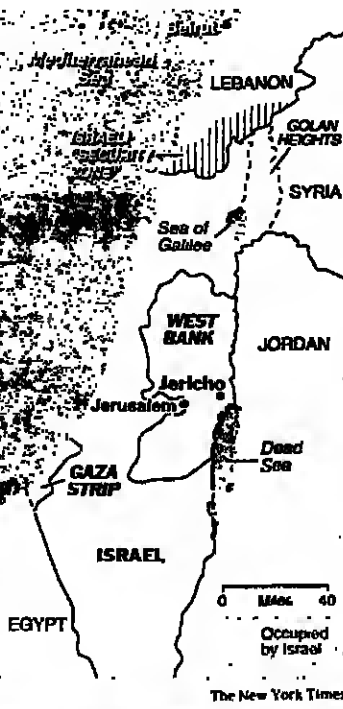
economists put gross domestic product per capita in 1991 at 11,962 for Israel, 1,700 for the West Bank and 850 for Gaza.

"Our estimate is that the Palestinian interim government will need \$2 billion annually for the first five years," said economist Samir Abdullah, a member of the Palestinian peace talks team. Even more investment will be needed for the "final status" phase of the territories after five years.

"Apart from building roads, communications, sewage, water and energy systems we need housing," he said. "There is a shortage of 5,000 to 7,000 units a year and we need more to cope with the thousands of people that will be displaced."

He estimated unemployment at 45 to 50 per cent.

Economists say Israel could bring immediate relief by reopening the border to Palestinian workers and increasing sub-contracting work in the occupied territories where labour costs are



German parties jockey for presidential succession

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — German leaders have begun squaring off for a showdown over a job all solemnly swear is too dignified to be sullied by party politics — Bonn's ceremonial presidency.

Names of possible candidates are bouncing around Bonn as parliamentarians look for the maximum political advantage to be won from picking a replacement for the widely-respected President Richard von Weizsäcker.

The search for a suitable successor has gone so far that even unlikely candidates like Kurt Masur, the Leipzig conductor who now heads the New York Philharmonic, have been mentioned.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has complicated things by insisting on an East German, even though none of his fellow Christian Democrats (CDU) from the region has Mr. Weizsäcker's stature.

Selecting a president is com-

plex because the head of state should, he says, be someone who can act as a moral conscience for a nation still troubled by its dark Nazi past and now challenged by the problems of uniting East and West Germans.

One "dream candidate" who would win wide support — former Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher — has resolutely ruled himself out of the race.

Another popular elder statesman, Johannes Rau, belongs to the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). Electing Mr. Rau, who is premier of north Rhine-Westphalia State, would be a signal for a CDU-SPD coalition after national elections on October 1994.

Mr. Rau, following a tradition that one never openly runs for the presidency, said on Tuesday he was disappointed by all the talk and feared it would harm the dignity of the office.

The federal convention, made up of parliamentary deputies and representatives from the 16 states, meets once every five years to elect a president. Mr. Weizsäcker, a CDU member, has served two terms and cannot

run again.

Mr. Kohl's CDU dropped all pretence of seeking a broad consensus by announcing it would present its own candidate for the election next May.

His coalition partners, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), continue to urge the silent Genscher to change his mind while the SPD looks set to name Mr. Rau as its candidate next month.

Some FDP politicians and a few long-time Kohl critics within the CDU, like Saxony State Premier Kurt Biedenkopf, have tried to buck Mr. Kohl's plan by announcing or hinting they would also support Mr. Rau.

A dark-horse candidate, the former East German civil rights activist Jens Reich, has also taken the unusual step of publicly throwing his own hat into the ring — normally a sure way to rule oneself out of contention for the job.

"Any hope of keeping the presidential election out of next year's election manoeuvring was buried on Monday," the liberal

Frankfurter Rundschau wrote.

Apart from turning the race into a party political issue, Kohl has now also increased pressure on the FDP leader, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, to swallow hard and support the CDU candidate just to keep the Bonn coalition going.

The CDU's move to stake its claim to the presidency seems to have boosted the prospects for Steffen Heitmann, the justice

minister in the East German state of Saxony, who is all but unknown in the far more populous West.

CDU officials say Mr. Kohl homed in on Mr. Heitmann after failing to find any more prominent easterners with national appeal and no political problems left over from the communist era.

Mr. Heitmann, 48, comes from Dresden and made himself a name there during and after the collapse of communist rule in 1989 as legal adviser to dissidents.

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Car bombing highlights crime wave

By Isabelle Astigarraga
Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — The car bomb killing of a Greek businessman over the weekend has dramatically highlighted the wave of gangster violence that has overwhelmed Moscow recently, leaving more than 60 dead in four months.

The car bombing — reportedly the first such incident in Moscow — was in fact only one of three crimes over the weekend that would have been unheard of in Russia's capital a few years ago.

On Sunday what police described as a "military training exercise" blew up in front of the apartment of Sergei Belashov, a Moscow city councillor in charge of youth issues. No one was injured.

Later Sunday police had to defuse an anti-tank grenade found tied to a pole on one of the rides in the Gorky Amusement Park.

Police said they were not sure that the car bomb which killed N. Lapidis, director of the firm Sparza, on Friday was aimed at him. They thought it might have been intended to kill the car's owner, the deputy manager of the nearby Hotel Belgrade.

But the authorities saw all three incidents as the latest examples of the Moscow under-

ground's determination to settle scores and deliver chilling warnings.

The city has seen a spate of Mafia-style hitmen armed with submachine guns murdering businessmen in restaurants and casinos. Police records list 23 gangster murders in the past six weeks, and more than 60 since the beginning of May.

"It is gang warfare," said a high-ranking member of the city's security forces last month, "we will look into it once they have finished killing each other."

Another police chief said this month: "The Mafia is immortal." He added that the police were seeking to "consolidate the gangs" so that there was one godfather with whom they could deal.

Local businessmen find this attitude frightening. Far from a mere settling of scores among gangsters, businessmen see the killings as designed to intimidate those who refuse to bow to protection rackets and the like.

After hitmen murdered 10 bankers in a few weeks, a group of the city's top executives asked President Boris Yeltsin to intervene personally to make sure businessmen received protection.

What is happening, the businessmen say, is that the Mafia is moving out of its traditional territory — the bars, nightclubs and casinos — and trying to establish itself on the wider plain as Russia develops a free market economy.

Mr. Yeltsin has regularly condemned the Mafia and called for stronger measures against organised crime. But observers say he has yet to deliver the follow-through.

His failure to implement tough measures has had consequences for more than the business community, though. The crime wave has become a political issue.

Conservative members of parliament have been quick to blame Mr. Yeltsin for the lawlessness, saying it has increased sixfold in five years.

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Gulf shippers to raise rates on freight from Far East

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Shipping companies serving the oil-rich Gulf and South East Asia have decided to raise freight rates by nearly 15 per cent after their plunges over the past two years inflicted large losses on most firms, shipping sources in the region said Tuesday.

Japan, the main economic partner of the Gulf countries, is excluded from the hike because of a surge in the yen, the sources said.

The increases, to take effect from Oct. 15, will affect rates on cargo destined from South East Asia for Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the sources said.

"Most shipping companies operating on this line have suffered from heavy losses due to a steady decline in shipping rates as a result of growing international competition," one source said.

"In order to continue providing the required standard of shipping services, the operating companies had no choice but to increase freight rates by \$150 per 20-foot container and \$100 per 40-foot container," he added.

Freight rates on most lines serving the Gulf have declined over the past two years as a result of overcapacity and operations of new companies.

According to shipping sources, rates on containers from the Far East to the region fell by nearly 20 per cent to \$1,100 from \$1,400 dollars.

Fees on cargo from the United States also dropped by around 20 per cent to \$2,000 from \$2,400 and on those from Europe by nearly 27 per cent to \$1,100 from \$1,500.

The decline has prompted several companies to join each other in a bid to coordinate shipping fees and face competition.

They include the so-called Europe Middle East Rate Agreement (EMERA), formed two years ago by 14 international and regional firms, including Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC).

Another bloc was created last month by UASC and around 12 other companies to serve between the Gulf and Mediterranean ports in Africa and Europe.

UASC, owned by GCC governments except Oman, has yet to release its 1992 balance sheet, but shipping sources said it had suffered losses because of the drop in freight rates after a record profit of \$60 million in 1991.

Last month, EMERA slashed a surcharge on currency exchange differential from 2.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent after an improvement in the U.S. dollar against other major Western currencies.

It was the second reduction by EMERA in a month. In July, it cut the surcharge to 2.5 per cent from 5.5 per cent after the U.S. dollar began to gain ground against European currencies following a steep fall.

"There is no intention to increase freight rates on cargo from Japan because they are already high within the currency adjustment factor (CAF) as a result of the surge in the yen," a shipping source said.

Shipping lines between the Gulf and South East Asia are among the busiest in the world, as Far East countries are major trade partners of the region.

Their two-way trade, including Gulf oil exports, exceed \$50 billion a year.

Dealers see fresh falls for shell-shocked gold market

LONDON (R) — Gold tumbled to \$352.25 per ounce Wednesday and dealers forecast further falls for the shell-shocked market.

"The chances of a bounce happening (in the short term) are about the same as a Bank of England cheque bouncing," said one London-based dealer.

Gold fell to its lowest fixing in four months upon waves of selling by U.S. funds, which are seen as holding the key to gold's direction. Gold closed in London Tuesday at \$353.75.

Rumours Tuesday that the Belgian central bank among others was selling gold were denied by a bank official.

"I can formally deny that we have sold gold in the past months," the Belgian central bank spokeswoman said.

Technical analyst Stephen Raphael of investment advisers Brian Marber Ltd said: "A fall to \$335 now could happen very quickly."

Gold prices reached a seven-year low of \$326 in March before rallying to a three-year high of \$406.70 on Aug. 2.

The market was driven by U.S. investment funds which have poured money into the "paper" gold futures and options markets.

But it was wave after wave of profit-taking by the funds which brought prices off their August high culminating in a sales blitz Tuesday on the COMEX futures market in New York which in turn sank London bullion prices.

"The funds are still the key. If they decide to get out at the bottom we're in trouble," a London dealer said.

Gold's upswing began when unprecedented buying from newly affluent China coincided with purchases as protection against political problems in both South Africa and Russia, two of the major producers, to lift values from their floor.

But the take-off came on the news Anglo-French financier James Goldsmith sold a large chunk of his shares in U.S. gold miner Newmont Mining to investor George Soros and invested the multi-million dollar proceeds in gold options.

Investments in mutual funds said causing concerns in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Millions of Americans are investing in mutual funds and concerns are growing that the funds are bringing new risk to the savings of many people and instability to markets in which they invest, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday edition.

The paper said a whole generation of savers, seeking alternatives to the two and three per cent returns available at banks, is now being transformed into investors.

"Mutual funds are becoming increasingly responsible for people's savings," the Times quoted Arthur Zekel, president of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, as saying.

"This is a cultural change. There are so many unknowns. Given the huge flow of dollars, more of these people's savings will become more volatile and less stable," he pointed out.

The Times said that since the start of the bull market in 1990, more than \$450 billion has poured into mutual funds. These include stock, bond and money market funds — bringing their total assets to nearly \$1.8 trillion.

People investing in mutual funds are largely middle income and first-time investors, the paper said, who are betting a large part of their savings on increasingly uncertain and unstable markets.

Mutual funds are seen as riskier investments than bank deposits because there is no guarantee that investors will ever see their money again.

The paper said most of the money for mutual funds have come from the banking system. Nearly \$350 billion has been "drained" from banks since mutual funds took off, it said.

The newspaper said that on Wall Street, the worry is growing as well. There are now twice as many mutual funds — about 400 — as stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

It said statistics compiled by a market analysis firm show the major reason for large price changes in the stock market has been investments of mutual funds.

Italy state banks to be fully privatised

ROME (R) — Italy boosted its flagging privatisation programme Tuesday by announcing it would sell all its holdings in the country's two large state banks.

But, in a move that shows how difficult the government of Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi is finding it to get the plan off the ground, shares in the banks will be sold by public offer.

The sale of both banks, Credito Italiano SPA and Banca Commerciale Italiana SPA (BCI), has been mooted for about a year.

First attempts to sell Credito by inviting competitive bids from large domestic and foreign institutions have failed and are probably the reason why a public offering of stock is being studied, analysts said.

Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the giant state holding company that controls both the banks, said the move was decided at a board meeting Tuesday.

"The operating will be realised through the placement of shares on domestic and foreign markets to realise the widest distribution of shareholders," IRI said.

Shares in the banks would be offered to employees, clients and domestic and international institutional investors.

IRI controls 54.35 per cent of BCI and around 67 per cent of Credito. The rest of the shares are traded on the bourse.

Based on current market values, IRI's stake in Credito would be worth around 2.77 trillion lire (\$1.43 billion) and BCI approximately 2.56 trillion lire (\$1.62 billion), analysts say.

The privatisation of Credito was first proposed in August last year as the government of then prime minister Giuliano Amato struggled to regain credibility for Italy in the midst of a financial crisis.

Credito and BCI are two of the seven firms at the top of Rome's privatisation list.

However, in an implicit statement of failure to dispose of Credito by other means, IRI said the new proposal for selling the bank would replace its longstanding attempts to privatise it by auctioning.

For months IRI has been forced to deny media reports it was unable to find bidders for Credito at anywhere near the price it wanted.

Even a sale by public placement of stocks could be difficult. Italy will have to compete with over half a dozen banks from at least three different European countries that will be coming on to the market in the next few months.

Kazakhstan kicks off privatisation with shop auctions

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (AFP) — The Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan Tuesday auctioned off 14 shops, kicking off the first stage of its programme for the privatisation of state-owned property.

Private entrepreneurs spent a total of 290.7 million rubles or about \$322,000 to buy the shops, most of which are grocery stores, at the auction organised with the assistance of the World Bank.

The initial value of the shops was set slightly higher at 300.1 million rubles.

Under the terms of the sale, new private owners must maintain the current services and goods sold at the shops for the next five years.

Shop auctions are scheduled to take place in five other cities of Kazakhstan in the upcoming months.

"We expect 20,000 stores, cafeterias and buffets to be sold off by 1994. All small enterprises will be auctioned off," said Michael Sipos, spokesman for the World Bank. "Privatisation is a main basis for building a new economy," the spokesman added.

Kazakhstan's two-year programme for privatisation calls for selling shop auction in the first stage followed by transforming large state-owned enterprises whose number of employees total more than 200 into joint stock companies.

Russia putting finances in order — Fyodorov

MOSCOW (R) — Russia lifting its economy out of crisis and monthly inflation should fall below 20 per cent in September, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov said Tuesday.

"Despite all the problems since the start of the year, there has been a more or less consistent move towards financial stabilisation in the past eight months," he told a news conference.

He said inflation had been kicked up in August by fuel price rises. "After this we plan to index prices to inflation and there will be no more sharp jumps," he said.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a government think-tank, the Centre for Economic Analysis, as saying inflation in August was more than 29 per cent for the month, up from 19.3 per cent in July.

Mr. Fyodorov said inflation had been "checked" by a central bank decision in July to withdraw from circulation 11 trillions issued before 1993.

The led to an influx of rubles from other former Soviet republics as people scrambled to change old notes before an end-August deadline.

The Finance Ministry said the ruble had been "checked" by a central bank decision in July to withdraw from circulation 11 trillions issued before 1993.

The currency traded at 995 to the dollar at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, down from 985.5 rubles at the start of last week.

The finance minister said stabilisation of the ruble in recent months was partly due to Russian domestic prices for many goods rising close to world market levels.

Exporters suffering from the exchange rate stabilisation at a time of continued high inflation should be compensated by planned reductions in export tariffs, he said.

"We propose reducing export tariffs by average of 50 per cent," he said, without elaborating. Export tariffs vary depending on the commodity.

For oil, the main export earner, they are 30 European Currency Units (\$35 per tonne or 45 European currency units (\$53) in barter transactions.

Mr. Fyodorov accused parliament of attempting to destroy the state and overthrow the government by adopting a 1993 budget with a huge deficit.

"The supreme Soviet (parliament) has clearly embarked on a course aimed at destroying the state and changing a government that it objects to," he told the news conference.

Last month, the conservative legislature rejected a plan by President Boris Yeltsin to cut the budget deficit, pegged at 26 trillion rubles (\$26 billion) by parliament.

Mr. Fyodorov, who says tough monetary policies are needed to slow galloping inflation, said there was nothing unexpected in parliament's budget. The government had to ignore it and implement its own version, with a planned deficit of about 12 trillion rubles (\$12 billion).

Mr. Fyodorov also warned against "unfounded regions" about withholding funds from the federal coffers, saying they faced possible sanctions.

"The finance ministry has sent telegrams to regions where illegal decisions have been taken... those who do not pay taxes will face concrete economic sanctions," he said. These might affect export quotas and licenses, he added.

Poll: 44% of French see EMS change as government failure

PARIS (AFP) — The decision in early August to widen the fluctuation margins within the European Monetary System (EMS) is seen as a "failure" for the French government and as a disguised devaluation by 44 per cent of the French, according to a Sofres poll.

But 30 per cent considered the move a "success" for the government, having enabled it to maintain the EMS, while 26 per cent expressed no opinion.

The decision, taken to end monetary turbulence, widened the permitted fluctuation margins of EMS currencies to 15 per cent on either side of a central rate, against the previous 2.25 per cent for most currencies.

Two-thirds of the sample thought the July monetary crisis would only delay the arrival of the EC's single currency, but not kill the notion.

On another point, the poll showed that Prime Minister Edouard Balladur is the only French politician viewed as able to combat unemployment, with 54 per cent favourable opinions against only nine per cent for the second-placed, Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make the most of delay and limitations that are a pain in the neck to you today. Carry through with your down-to-earth duties or you will find that you have to redo them later in a more difficult period.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't let problems on your job get you down but go along with necessary changes in your stride and tonight you find conditions sort themselves out right.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A conflict between practical problems and your creative ideas can lead to a cut-dead until you schedule your time to include both in your life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your main interest today should be in outside contacts so don't allow conditions at your home to interfere with meeting associates, tonight please a usual ally.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Promises you have made seem difficult to carry out but do your best and don't be abrupt with other persons, tonight try to understand a partner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out not to comfort a congenial companion who is having practical anxieties and tonight you can have quiet happiness, romantically.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Consider well what is happening at your residence and use your utmost patience not to do anything rash while tonight you can entertain their happiness.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You will feel disturbed by some messages or communications during the day but they will work out o.k. if you use your power of cooperation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A critical acquaintance can try you about some property or financial matter but you don't have to react badly so take in stride, tonight be with a charming friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to berate one in a position of influence in the outside world but it would only react against your best interests so keep calm.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new activity can threaten to break up completely a long time project you've been quietly doing of utmost importance to you so be steadfast.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to see and be with friends and acquaintances but nothing works out as you wish so rise above disappointment, tonight you can enjoy a worldly pleasure.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Conflict between an executive and you would be detrimental to your best interests so avoid at all costs and tonight you can enjoy a longtime friend.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Both your judgement and your hunches are operating accurately and you would be wise to concentrate upon details of finances and property that don't require taking any risks, chances or change.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out in the world of business or whatever practical activities you have in mind and you can get your ambitions before the world successfully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many new ideas just what you can do to extend your prosperity to new horizons so be openminded to whatever arises for it can be of benefit to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Seek out those business persons with whom you have some dealings to put through with and get into the practical aspects of them and make definite arrangements.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those very down to earth associates who can further your aims and let them know what they can do to aid your progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have an unusually productive day wherever your activities of a work nature are concerned so make sure that you do not lose a moment in constructive planning.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A great day to think in terms of whatever recreations you want to engage in and to make arrangements now so you have them for sometime to come.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You have been considering serious practical changes your residence and this is certainly the day to start to put them into actual motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about the various persons with whom you have usual contact who can aid you to make your life more effective and enriched and get their support.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Money matters and other practical interests should occupy the top of your list today for you have a good chance to increase your abundance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a feeling of self-confidence and that you can extend your interests to include whatever you want to a personal nature.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now would be wise to forget any daydreaming and get into the nitty gritty into whatever practical plans and arrangements vital to your progress.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think in terms of the long time and purposeful friends you have and let them know how they can aid you to obtain your personal goals and follow suggestions.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAAMO
POSOT
BYSUIL
SEMIED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Saturday's Jumbles: MOURN SUSHY MUTTON DELUGE
Answer: What the bored percussion player thought his work was—HUMDRUM

THE Daily Crossword by Joan O. Berbrich

ACROSS
1 Filled with wonder
5 Map
9 Kitchen VIP
13 A Carnegie
14 Washed
18 A sleep loser
17 Nard
18 Tumultuous
19 Ken of TV
20 One-time film beauty
23 Ike's WWII command
24 Hat
25 Christie sleuth
30 MI. award
32 Supplies with a draw
34 Wound
35 appearance
36 Peak for moving
37 Short sword
39 Juan's uncle
40 Single
41 — Cattle (historic fort near Havana)
42 Lulu
44 Swiss river
45 Yoko
46 "Peter Pan"
47 Little white lie
50 Clever remark
51 Mmo
58 Farm
59 appearance
59 Bull. prof.
60 Tableland
62 Guinness
63 Located
64 Voice
65 Classroom
66 Loah
67 Raced

DOWN
1 Compute
2 Weather word
3 Kagan of Hollywood
4 Tongue
5 Sher's maneuvers
6 Cautious
7 English river
8 Grim brightly
9 Combination of tones
10 Saint's headgear
11 Border lake
12 Swamp
13 Oddly amusing
14 — in the bag
22 Family circle member
25 James or Jackie
26 Musical beginning
27 ANTA member
28 Plavous
29 Preface
30 — Larus
31 Ship's rear
32 Simple
33 Office note
36 Try again
38 Amusing
43 Cannon
44 cleaners
47 Encourages
48 Fabled bird
49 Dress
51 Twenty blocks, roughly
52 Pub orders
53 Reclined
54 Stare
55 God of war
56 Flying prefix
57 Addict
58 Downcast
59 Affirmative

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Trading at Amman Financial Market declines sharply

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tightened bank facilities, fresh stock flotations and uncertainties over Jordan's economic role in Palestinian autonomy have worked together to depress trading in the Amman stock market to record levels in several years, officials and dealers said Wednesday.

Trading during last week was less than JD 7 million compared with JD 9.5 million in the immediate previous week and JD 13 million the week before.

Daily trading dwindled to less than JD 650,000 on Monday and Tuesday compared with a daily average of around JD 2 million. That compares with the daily record of JD 17 million registered in early July and a daily average of around JD 7 million since early this year.

Jahid Tarif, deputy head of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), as well as several brokers rejected suggestions that uncertainties over Jordan's links with the Palestinian economy in the autonomy period were the sole reason for the decline.

"There has been a credit squeeze in the market by commercial banks, which face a Sept. 30 deadline to ensure all accounts comply with the ceilings set by the Central Bank of Jordan," said Mr. Tarif.

In addition, there has also been a large movement of funds from the secondary market (where shares of established companies are traded) to the primary market (where new flotations are

offered), he pointed out.

Brokers pointed out that several new entries were entering the market, bringing fresh stock which attracts investors. These transactions are not entered into market trading until the companies formally take off.

Several other firms, such as the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Islamic Bank and the Amman Investment Bank among them, are increasing their capital, drawing investments away from the AFM to the new issues, the brokers said.

"Of course, other investors are holding back, waiting to see what is happening to the entire region in the peace process," Mr. Tarif told the Jordan Times. "But that is only one element in the equation."

According to broker Ibrahim Saleem, quoted by Reuters, "Peace will be a boon to everyone, but investor expectations on short-term gains have been jolted."

The reference was obviously to indications, as relayed in media reports, that Jordan may not have an immediate strong role to play in the economy of the Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the recent Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

An AFM broker, who like others spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity in line with guidelines from the AFM management, said investors in the market had been hoping that Jordan would be one of the beneficiaries in the economic aid that would be pumped into the

region to support the peace agreement.

"Those who wanted immediate returns were disappointed, but they are growing wise and turning to other sectors of interest," said the U.S.-educated broker, noting that agricultural companies were the target of many such speculators.

The Israel-PLO agreement "may be clear to political circles, but contains many grey areas, which lead to uncertainties among speculators," he said.

However, he said, "there has been no sudden reluctance on the part of investors to engage in trading or any sudden massive withdrawal of funds from the market as a result of the uncertainties."

Fears of capital flight from Jordan to the occupied territories are also cited as a reason for investor reluctance at the AFM. But, many brokers say, except for instructions from clients to freeze all transactions except to avoid losses, there was little indication of such fears manifesting themselves.

"Most investors at the AFM are smart enough to know that there is little chance of immediate lucrative investments in the Gaza Strip of Jericho," said a veteran banker.

"I doubt whether any seasoned investor will take the risk of shifting any huge capital to the occupied territories under the autonomy structure that is envisaged," added the banker, who said he was basing his judgement on published accounts of the Israel-PLO accord.

The banker, who also insisted on anonymity, said if there was to be phasing out of capital from the AFM, "there is no doubt that the move will be very gradual with the natural result that the resulting losses in terms of stock prices will be spread over phases and sectors."

The brokers said the plunge in the market was in no way sudden. "The decline at AFM started in mid-July when the CBI credit limitations took effect," said an elderly broker operating since 1985.

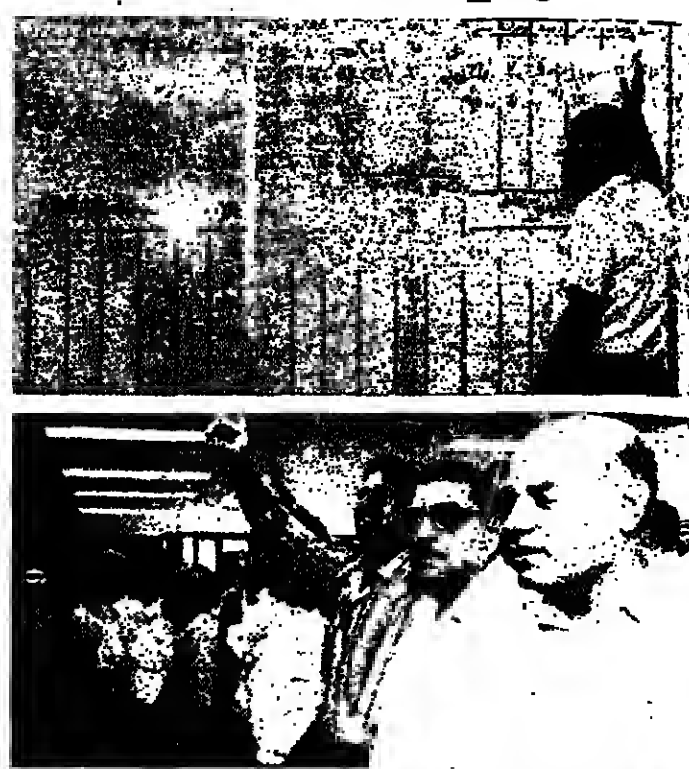
"The most visible effect was last week when there was an oversupply and low demand since most commercial banks as well as investors depending on bank credits wanted to close their books before the end of September," he added.

Many commercial banks which operate with their own funds and extend personal credits for others to invest in stocks were key sellers in the last month, said the broker.

Furthermore, new stock entered the market, depressing the price of shares, reflecting on the volume of trading.

Brokers explained that many companies were taking advantage of the lively activity in the market and the availability of funds to raise their own capital and this led to diversion of funds away from active trading.

Under the present formula, the Ministry of Industry and Trade sets the price of new stock of established companies at the par value plus a premium based on the assets and profitability of the



Scenes from the Amman Financial Market (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

concerned firm. Invariably, the market price of the companies' stocks were readjusted midway, and this accounted partially for the marked decline in volume of trading disproportionate to the number of shares involved, the brokers pointed out.

Under the arrangement, a new issue of JD 1 par value shares was priced at JD 5 each if the market value of the same company's shares was JD 10. Once the new stock changes hands and the issue is formalised, the price for the new and old shares would have the market price of, say JD 7 or JD 8.

"This definitely has a bearing on the volume of trading at the AFM since the share price itself goes down," noted the elderly broker.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York (Sept 8/1993)	Tokyo (Sept 8/1993)
Sterling Pound	1.5385	1.5385
Deutsche Mark	1.6138	1.6165
Swiss Franc	1.4175	1.4220
French Franc	5.6788	5.6900
Japanese Yen	104.29	104.38
European Currency Unit	1.1713	1.1695

As of 12:00 PM, European Opening at 8:00 AM GMT

Intercontinental Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.03	3.03	3.18	3.37
Sterling Pound	5.88	5.80	6.68	5.62
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.50	6.18	5.81
Swiss Franc	4.75	4.68	4.43	4.18
French Franc	7.45	7.06	6.75	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.75	2.56	2.56	2.56
European Currency Unit	8.06	7.75	7.25	6.68

Interbank bid rates for overnight, excluding U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.40	7.00	Silver	4.25	0.100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0563	1.0616
Deutsche Mark	0.4256	0.4277
Swiss Franc	0.4838	0.4862
French Franc	0.1209	0.1215
Japanese Yen	0.6566	0.6599
Dutch Guilder	0.3793	0.3812
Swedish Krona	0.0867	0.0871
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.01966	0.01976

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Ruhrland Dinar	1.7950	1.8250
Lebanese Lira	0.03955	0.04035
Saudi Riyal	0.1750	0.1850
Kuwait Dinar	2.2600	2.3400
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.8000
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1555	0.1875
Greek Drachma	0.2875	0.3250
Cypriot Pound	1.3665	1.3985

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3196/06	Deutsche marks
1.6180/90	Dutch guilders
1.8180/90	Swiss francs
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Turkish premier in Moscow

Russia, Turkey to discuss Caucasus

MOSCOW (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived here Wednesday for two days of talks on the worsening conflict between separatist Armenians and Azeris over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

Mrs. Ciller, on her first trip abroad since taking office, is also expected to discuss bilateral ties between Ankara and Moscow in meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and to hold talks with a delegation of Russian businessmen.

"Although we would rather not say it too loudly, this trip is obviously taking place to end a certain cooling in bilateral relations, which was caused by conflicting interests in the Caucasus," the daily Izvestia reported.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that diplomats in Moscow plan to share their "concern" with Mrs. Ciller on the possibility that the five-year conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh could spread throughout the region.

The statement came after tension rose this week along the Turkish-Armenian border, with Russian Guards stationed there on Tuesday accusing Turkish troops of firing into Armenian territory. The Turkish military denied the charge.

The Foreign Ministry statement was also referring to last week's decision by Iran to set up camps inside Azerbaijan for refugees fleeing the separatist conflict and to send troops to guard

two dams under construction along the border.

The Iranian move came after the separatists launched major assaults on Azerbaijani territory last month capturing most of the area southwest of the disputed enclave all the way to the border region with Iran.

The offensive triggered a refugee exodus and raised fears in Tehran that the displaced will seek shelter in Iran.

It also raised concern in Moscow, which wants to prevent the spread of Muslim extremism in the region, that Iran would join the conflict, observers said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said Wednesday that Iranians had penetrated one-two kilometre into Azerbaijan but that Turkey was not concerned.

"Iran's intervention is only a measure to prevent Azeri refugees from entering its own territory," he told Reuters during a visit to Moscow. "The Iranians have not crossed deep into southern Azerbaijan... this is not alarming for us."

"We have information that they have crossed only one to two kilometres beyond the border," he said. Mr. Cetin is accompanying Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, and a 30-strong business delegation, to Moscow.

Turkey, for its part, has responded to the escalating crisis by beefing up its troops at the border with Armenia and threatening to go to war against Armenia if Yerevan attacked the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan

along the Turkish border.

But Russian diplomats dismissed the threat, saying there was little chance of Turkey following through with it.

"Even though the messages coming from Ankara are contradictory, we are more inclined to believe the recent declaration by (Turkish) President Sileyman Demirel disavowing any possibility of military intervention," said one diplomat who requested anonymity.

Mrs. Ciller, during her trip here, is expected to meet Azerbaijani Acting President Geidar Aliyev, who is in Moscow to make arrangements for his war-torn republic to join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Turkey had developed close ties with Azerbaijan under the former leadership of ousted President Abulfaz Elchibey who had moved away from Moscow during his rule.

The Turkish premier is also expected to discuss economic matters affecting Russian, Azeri and Kazakh oil shipments through Turkey, Russian natural gas sales to Turkey, and loan issues.

Mr. Aliyev Wednesday described as "encouraging" prospects for a settlement of the five-year undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan following three days of talks here with Russian officials.

Mr. Aliyev told a news conference that his concerns over the

worsening conflict for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave located inside Muslim Azerbaijan, were "met with the full understanding on the part of the Russian leadership" ITAR-TASS reported.

"Russia's role as a great power and our northern neighbour is tremendous," Mr. Aliyev said, adding: "We are counting on a greater contribution from Russia in settling this complicated issue."

Mr. Aliyev has turned to Russia for support in ending the economically crippling war and has pledged to seek membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the club of former Soviet republics, marking a clear departure from the pro-Turkish policies of his predecessor.

Meanwhile, informal talks between Azerbaijani officials and Armenian leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh scheduled for Wednesday in Moscow did not take place, according to a spokesman for the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation, Artaki Gukassian.

Mr. Gukassian, quoted by Interfax, said the Azerbaijani delegation did not show up for the meeting which was to be mediated by officials from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman added that Azerbaijan's failure to attend the talks demonstrated that Baku "was not ready to enter into a constructive dialogue" aimed at settling the conflict.

Mandela calls for end to S. Africa sanctions

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela called Wednesday for the lifting of international economic sanctions against South Africa by the end of September.

Mr. Mandela's call came after democracy negotiators agreed Tuesday to draft legislation to establish a multi-party Executive Council that would end exclusive white control over the government.

"The ANC has taken a decision to have sanctions lifted by the end of this month," Mr. Mandela told workers at a clothing factory at the start of a six-day tour of the Western Cape region.

"I have no doubt that the international community will respond positively," Mr. Mandela said.

Mr. Mandela's call followed the approval late Tuesday by delegates at the 23-party talks in Johannesburg of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) draft bill, one of four bills designed to level the political playing field ahead of the scheduled April 27 non-racial election.

The multi-party TEC and its seven sub-councils will have a say over government decisions and their expected implementation by December will effectively end 45 years of apartheid rule by the National Party.

The TEC bill and those for independent media, election and broadcasting commissions are expected to be passed into law during next week's special sitting of the white-dominated parliament in Cape Town.

The ANC led the drive to isolate South Africa through economic sanctions during the 1980s,



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela displays an American Indian belt presented by organizers at the United States trade fair in Johannesburg Monday (AFP photo)

saying the measures would only be lifted when white rule ended.

The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which has boycotted talks since July 2, has said it will not serve on the TEC, as has the rightwing Conservative Party (CP).

CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg went as far as to say the implementation of the TEC would be regarded as a declaration of war by his pro-apartheid party.

IFP spokesman Ziba Jiyane said his party "can't be part of something if we don't know what it is."

The quasi-independent Bophuthatswana and Ciskei black homelands also rejected the TEC bill and have threatened not to implement the TEC in territory under their control and boycott the April 27 election.

President F.W. de Klerk is expected to appeal to IFP Presi-

dent Mangosuthu Buthelezi to rejoin the process and take a seat on the TEC when the two leaders hold a summit in Cape Town on Sept. 16.

Political analysts believe that time is running out for Mr. Buthelezi to participate in the transition process, and both government and ANC spokesmen, while stressing they want the IFP back, have said the process can move forward without the Zulu party.

One way of tempting the IFP to rejoin talks is to ensure that the interim constitution negotiators still have to agree on entrenched federalism, one of the IFP's major demands.

The interim constitution has to be agreed upon before the TEC can be set up and political analysts believe this is unlikely before late October or early November.

Hosokawa basks in record-high polls

TOKYO (R) — One month after forming his government, Japan's new prime minister — stylish, straightforward and a symbol of political change — is enjoying record approval ratings.

At the same time, commentators are voicing concern about whether Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition government will be able to speed up decision-making to tackle pressing issues like the economic recession and U.S. trade demands.

"The new government, bringing political change after decades of stagnation, is off to a remarkably good start," said political columnist Minoru Morita.

"Having an appealing, frank leader like Hosokawa helps, but it won't be enough if the government fails to be effective."

Three media polls published Wednesday all showed the 55-year-old Hosokawa, who has shored in a more casual style of leadership, riding a wave of unprecedented popularity.

A Kyodo News Agency survey of 2,200 respondents described Mr. Hosokawa's government as the most popular of post-war times — with an overwhelming support rating of 79 per cent.

A daily Asahi Shimbun poll of the same scale said support for Mr. Hosokawa and his cabinet stood at 71 per cent in September, the highest of any administration since the newspaper began keeping tabs in 1946.

Mr. Hosokawa's popularity contrasts sharply with the single-digit ratings of his predecessor, Ichiro Miyazawa.

Mr. Miyazawa's failure to clean up politics after a string of pay-off scandals sparked the downfall of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). After losing its parliamentary majority in a July general election, the LDP was forced to relinquish its 38-year monopoly on power to Mr. Hosokawa's eight-party coalition.

A third poll by the Mainichi Shimbun placed Mr. Hosokawa's public support at 65 per cent — a record high in its books compared to other premiers. However, the daily said backing slipped from 75 per cent one month ago when the new cabinet was sworn in.

"People are getting worried about whether the coalition members can overcome their differences and get down to the business of governing," said Keio University's Seishuro Sato.

"They're making some progress but it's taking time because of the need to reach a consensus," he said. "The coalition leaders must create some system to hasten decision-making."

The coalition, spanning a spectrum from centre-right LDP splinter groups to left-wing socialists, finally agreed to a draft plan for political reform late last month, two weeks behind schedule. Alliance leaders continue to range over details.

They are also divided over the shape of an emergency package, due to be finalised by Sept. 1 and aimed at propping up an economy in one of its worst post-war downturns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope arrives in Latvia

RIGA, Latvia (R) — Pope John Paul, starting a visiting to Latvia, Wednesday backed the Baltic country's demands that Russian troops should leave its territory, a spokeswoman for Latvia's president said. President Guntis Ulmanis met the Pope several hours after the Pontiff arrived to start the second leg of his first trip to countries of the former Soviet Union. Spokeswoman Anta Bosa said they discussed the issue of some 16,000 ex-Soviet troops remaining in Latvia. "The Pope said he understood the situation, that these are foreign troops and should leave the territory of Latvia," she said at a briefing after the private meeting. The last Russian troops left Lithuania four days before the Pope arrived there but neither Latvia nor Estonia, where the Pope makes a day trip Friday, has succeeded in agreeing terms with Moscow for a pullout.

Nigeria to hold elections next February

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's Electoral Commission has proposed that presidential elections should be held next Feb. 19 at a meeting with the interim government, press reports said Wednesday. The date was put to the government and representatives of the two authorised political parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC), Tuesday, the champion newspaper reported. If it proves acceptable, a run-off second round could be held on March 5 and a new president sworn in on March 31, the date set by the Nigerian military for the new interim government to end its term. The commission also suggested that local government elections be held on Dec. 18.

Japanese Imperial couple tour Rome

ROME (AFP) — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan took an unexpected and highly unusual dip into a crowd of Japanese tourists during a private visit to Rome Wednesday. "What joy to meet you so far from our fatherland, your majesty," exclaimed one young woman, who could never have got so close to the imperial couple in Japan. "I hope you'll also come to Germany where I live," said a student. "That's part of my programme. See you soon," the emperor replied. The imperial couple were visiting the main tourist attractions of Rome and the Vatican City after the official part of their visit to Italy ended Wednesday morning with a ceremony at the Quirinal Palace, seat of the Italian presidency. The emperor and President Luigi Oscar Scalfaro reviewed troops in the palace's central courtyard before being joined by the empress and the president's daughter Marianna Scalfaro.

Russia urged to maintain reform drive

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration has urged Russia to push forward with its reforms following its recent economic reverses. "The battle for economic reform in Russia is now entered a new and critical phase in which many of Russia's accomplishments on the economic front are being put at serious risk," said Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers. "The momentum for Russian reform must be reinvigorated and intensified to ensure sustained multilateral support," he said. Mr. Summers was appearing with other officials, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is preparing to work on a foreign aid bill containing \$2.5 billion in Russian aid. Strobe Talbott, ambassador at large to the former Soviet states, appealed to the committee to approve the aid and sought to allay fears that Russian reforms had stalled following backsliding on fiscal and monetary policy.

Grachev leaves for U.S.

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev Wednesday flew to the United States for a four-day visit that will feature talks with his U.S. counterpart Les Aspin and President Bill Clinton. Mr. Grachev was to be ferried by helicopter to the Pentagon immediately after his arrival for talks with Mr. Aspin on military cooperation, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. The visit, previously scheduled for July, was postponed amid a bitter dispute over the sale of rocket technology to India. Washington threatened to impose sanctions against Russia if it went ahead with the \$350 million deal to sell rocket boosters to India.

Greek government crisis grows

ATHENS (R) — Greece's conservative government clung to power by a single parliamentary seat Tuesday and a political crisis threatening to force early elections showed no sign of abating. Conservative deputy Stefanos Stephanopoulos ended a day of high drama at the parliament by abandoning the ruling party and declaring himself an independent deputy. "Because I have no other means of stopping the suffering ahead I withdraw my confidence from the government and become an independent deputy," Mr. Stephanopoulos said in a statement. He will back the new, highly nationalist political spring set up by former conservative Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras in July. His defection cuts Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis's absolute majority to 151 seats in the 300-seat parliament.

Major defends record; talks of recovery

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major went on the political offensive Wednesday with a campaigning message to the nation that hailed signs of economic recovery but glossed over the troubles of his leadership.

In a wide-ranging article written for Britain's regional newspapers, Mr. Major issued a stern defence of his Conservative government, saying ministers would not duck the challenges ahead.

"I can't pretend the past year has been easy. But the difficult decisions we took were necessary. But our steady progress in so many policies — less dramatic perhaps but vital — has often been overlooked," he said.

In an election-style address to rally his battle-weary Conservative Party, Mr. Major listed good news about the economy and set out a range of policy priorities, from tackling crime to cutting soaring social expenditure.

He also reaffirmed the free-market ideology running through his policies. "I want opportunity for all based on a free market. Without that we will never have a country at ease with itself," Mr. Major said.

The prime minister's popularity is near an all-time low after a summer of division over Europe and his speech signalled a desire to regain the initiative after a dreadful year of policy reversals and plummeting popularity.

The article appeared as Mr. Major embarked on the first of a series of "away-day" trips round the country aimed at boosting the morale of defeated Conservative workers before the party's annual conference next month.

Soviet document suggests Hanoi held more U.S. PoWs

WASHINGTON (R) — Russian authorities have handed over records purporting to show north Vietnam held several hundred more U.S. prisoners of war in the early 1970s than it acknowledged, the Pentagon said.

A Pentagon statement issued late Tuesday said the U.S. Defence Department received a Soviet GRU military intelligence document showing Hanoi held 735 U.S. airmen at the time although it publicly acknowledged only 368.

The Russian-language document, quoting comments supposedly made at a meeting of the Vietnam Workers Party in late 1970 or early 1971, said the 368 PoWs Hanoi acknowledged were to be released when the United States agreed to withdraw from South Vietnam. The others were to be freed once the pullout was over.

After the 1973 Paris peace agreement, Vietnam released 591 U.S. prisoners and said this was the total it had been holding. Unanswered questions since then about the fate of some of the 2,248 Americans still listed as missing in action have blocked normalisation of relations.

The new Soviet intelligence material, handed over by the Russians on a joint U.S.-Russian task force on POW-MIAs, comes as president Bill Clinton ponders steps towards easing a decades-old trade embargo against Vietnam. He tied his next move to progress in getting the fullest possible accounting of MIAs.

Presidential authority to impose embargoes such as the one on Vietnam is renewed annually and next week is when this is due to be done. The new POW material, which raises more questions, could further delay lifting of the embargo against Vietnam.

Critics, citing growing documentary evidence, have accused the Nixon administration of knowingly abandoning U.S. PoWs in South East Asia in its haste to end the war and say successive administrations have helped to cover this up.

"What's clear and irrefutable is that the Vietnamese government made a decision to hold American PoWs hostage to their ransom demands," said Jim Sanders, co-author of the new book *The Men We Left Behind: Henry Kissinger, The Politics Of Deceit*

and the Tragic Fate Of PoWs After The Vietnam War.

This new document continues the process of exposing that," he said in a telephone interview from his Williamsburg, Virginia, home.

A senior Pentagon official told Reuters the latest material was made public promptly to preempt any new cover-up charges.

"This new document has not been analysed. The Department of Defence cannot speak to its authenticity, or the accuracy or validity of its information until it has undergone a thorough review by the intelligence community," the Pentagon statement said.

Intelligence officials are still analysing a so-called "1205 document" received on April 8 from Soviet archives. It purports to be a Russian translation of a 1972 report to Vietnam's politburo and asserts Hanoi held 1,205 PoWs in mid-September 1972. That was more than twice the number freed in early 1973 in what was known as "Operation Homecoming."

Intelligence analysts cast serious doubt on that document, which surfaced as the Clinton

administration was on the verge of easing the embargo. In July, after the flap faded, Mr. Clinton cleared the way for Vietnam to resume borrowing from international financial institutions.

"At this point, our bottom line judgment is that the (1205) document and the information contained in it suggesting that the Vietnamese held more than 600 additional PoWs is not accurate," a Pentagon office which concentrates on the POW/MIA issue said recently.

Vietnamese officials said Wednesday the newly-disclosed Soviet report was untrue. An official government denial of the report was expected later in the day.

Initial unofficial reaction in Hanoi was that the document could delay any U.S. action to ease the embargo because it would take weeks to analyse.

There were suggestions it might have been deliberately released now to derail prospects of an end to the sanctions.

"This was almost predictable," a Western diplomat said. "A lot of people had predicted something like this."

Spielberg gets awarded for blockbuster career

ROME (AP) — Steven Spielberg received a Golden Lion Special Career Award at the 50th Venice Film Festival, which screened his dinosaur blockbuster *Jurassic Park*. Spielberg's *Jaws*, *E.T.*, *Indiana Jones* and other movies have earned a reported \$1.2 billion, more than the films of any other director. And the American director is only 45. The first Golden Lion was awarded on the event's eighth day. Speculation was that other career prizes will go to Robert De Niro, director Roman Polanski and actress Claudia Cardinale. Spielberg also spoke at a symposium that announced formation of an International Union of Filmmakers. He called U.S. law permitting the coding of authors' rights "the tragedy of American film" and called for more protection worldwide. At the end of his speech, the American director offered to return a 1966 Golden Lion director Gillo Pontecorvo sold him in an auction to raise money for the cause. Pontecorvo refused, but hugged him as other directors applauded and cameras flashed. "I travelled 6,000 miles (9,600 kms), but I'll find a way to do it," Spielberg said.

Wife who cut off husband's organ charged

MANASSAS, Virginia (AFP) — A woman was indicted on malicious wounding charges after she cut off her husband's penis and later threw it out the window of a car. Twenty-four-year-old Lorena Bobbitt told investigators her husband awakened her and forced her to have sex. Afterwards she took a kitchen knife and sliced off her husband's sex organ. She then threw the penis out of her car window as she drove to the police station to report she had been raped. Police later recovered the penis and surgeons were able to reattach it in a nine-hour operation. Husband John Bobbitt, charged with marital sexual assault, denies raping his wife. Lorena Bobbitt has since filed for divorce.

Body tattooing makes comeback in China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Body tattooing has become fashionable again in China among young people, even though many of them face discrimination because of it, a report said Wednesday. Tattooing was banned by the Communists after their takeover in 1949 but has now made a comeback since the Peking-funded China News Service. But it said people who had tattoos often faced discriminations as the practice was often associated with criminal gangs. In Hubei, Shanxi and Shandong provinces, several men were turned away from enlisting in the army for having tattoos. Recruiting officers said "We don't enlist hoodlums," said the agency. Some young women described tattoos as "a sign of love" to show their idols, while young men often saw them as a symbol of "camaraderie" the agency said.

Chinese chain letter catches top local leaders

PEKING (R) — A chain letter offering a chance between fortune and disaster is making the rounds of China's top local legislators, who are flocking to sign up in hope of becoming instant millionaires. The official China Youth Daily said the letter, which must be sent on to five new people by each recipient, was the latest craze among standing committee members at People's Congresses, or local legislatures. "This is an opportunity not to be missed," the letter was quoted as saying. "It is a chance to become a millionaire." Those who break the chain and do not forward on new copies were warned they would "regret it for the rest of their lives." One Sichuan deputy who declined to send on new letters was hit by a car while riding his bike, the letter said. An Inner Mongolian representative who broke the chain watched a beam fall from his roof and crush his daughter, it said. The media obtained a copy of the chain letter from a member of the Hubei People's Congress, who said he felt "deeply ashamed" for his misguided fellow representatives. "What is so hard to believe is that the people participating in this ridiculous game are Congress Standing Committee members from across the country," the newspaper said.

Kidnappers put bite on dog owner

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian villager whose dog went missing has been ordered to pay a ransom of 1,000 rupees (\$33) by kidnappers for the pet's release, police said. The dog owner, in the northern district of Muzaffarnagar, received the ransom note and police are on the job, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Irbid hosts Ramtha Soccer Championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Soccer fans will have a full schedule for the upcoming two weeks as the 2nd Ramtha Soccer Championship opens in Irbid Thursday, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan.

The championship, organised by first division club Al Ramtha, has attracted six teams: Palestine's Gaza, Al Wakrah of Qatar, Al Wihdeh of Syria, the Youth's National Team of Iraq, in addition to Al Wihdeh and Al Ramtha of Jordan.

Participating teams have been divided into two groups. After the preliminary round, the first and second placed teams in each group will advance to the semifinal round. The final match will be

held Mon. Sept. 20.

All matches will be played at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid. Al Ramtha, who had won the 1st Ramtha Championship in 1991, will be seeking to overcome competition and retain their title.

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

Thurs. Sept. 9	Ramtha vs. Gaza
Fri. Sept. 10	Wihdeh vs. Wakrah
Sat. Sept. 11	Iraq vs. Gaza
Mon. Sept. 13	Wihdeh vs. Wihdeh
Tue. Sept. 14	Ramtha vs. Iraq
Thurs. Sept. 16	Wakrah vs. Wihdeh
Fri. 17 and Sat. 18	semifinal round
Mon. Sept. 20	final match.

Kasparov defeats Short in opener

LONDON (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov won a thrilling opener in his title defence when challenger Nigel Short forfeited the game by exceeding the time limit with only two moves left to make.

Short's loss on time shocked chess experts who expected a draw or a hurried false move by one of the players as they ran close to the two-hour time limit each to complete 40 moves.

"This is probably the first time in a world championship match when my opponent lost on time in a position which was drawish," Kasparov told British television after the game at London's Savoy Hotel.

Kasparov opened hesitantly in spite of the advantage of playing the white pieces which make the important first move.

He quickly regained confi-



Britain's Nigel Short (right) moves his knight at the start of the World Chess Championship against reigning champion Garry Kasparov (AFP photo)

dence and began to spend time backstage, eating Swiss chocolate and drinking mineral water, while Short pondered on stage.

Grandmasters analysing the game at the nearby Simpsons-On-The-Strand Cafe, had not expected Short to have any problems after Kasparov's tame opening strategy.

Experts' admiration grew as Kasparov methodically piled the pressure on Short, 28, but they were perplexed by the task of

trying to determine where the Briton had gone wrong.

With only five minutes and 13 moves left for each player, Kasparov launched a speculative but dangerous attack, sacrificing pawns around his own king.

Experts suspected Kasparov might have missed a win in the nervous flurry of moves in the final minutes but Short had managed to reach a better position when he overstepped the time control as he made his 39th move.

Monaco replace Olympique Marseille

PARIS (AFP) — Monaco are set to replace banned Olympique Marseille in this season's European Champions Cup, the French Football League announced Wednesday.

Marseille were barred from defending the trophy by the European Football Union (UEFA) Monday, following allegations of bribery and match-fixing.

The league opted for Monaco instead of a reluctant Paris St. Germain, the runners-up last season, and its choice looked certain to get the necessary approval from the union.

A UEFA spokesman told AFP: "Even though it would be more logical for the runners-up to have been put forward, the choice of Monaco should not pose any difficulties."

The choice should be rubber-stamped by UEFA later in the day.

Monaco, third in the league last season, are now set to host AEK Athens in the principality's magnificent stadium Louis II when the Champions Cup gets underway next Wednesday.

Monaco, who reached the

European Cup Winners' Cup final two seasons ago but lost to Werder Bremen, had initially refused to replace Bernard Tapie's club.

U.S. Open

Graf, Maleeva-Fragniere reach semifinals
Courier, Becker latest seeds to fall

NEW YORK (AP) — They came out of nowhere, mystery men, ambushing Jim Courier by day and Boris Becker by night in this zaniest of U.S. Opens.

Most fans never heard of Cedric Pioline and Magnus Larsson, yet there they stood in the quarterfinals while the No. 1 Courier and No. 4 Becker skulked away.

No sooner was the Becker upset over than another curious match ended in the grandstand. Andrei Medvedev, a 19-year-old Russian playing his first U.S. Open, reached the quarterfinals by defeating the Netherlands' Richard Krajicek 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, (7-4).

Taking an unbelievable fall was Australia's Jaime Morgan. In one of the Open's all-time collapses, Morgan blew a 5-0 lead in the fifth set, and match point at 5-1, in losing to compatriot Wally Masur. Masur took the last seven games to win 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 and advance to the quarters.

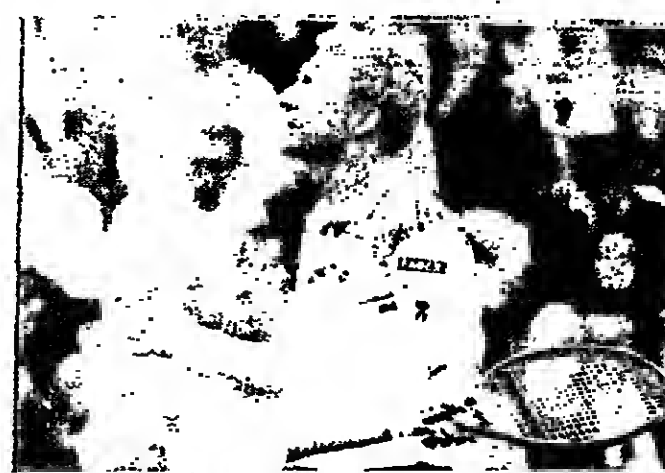
Steffi Graf and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere advanced as expected, though Graf had a struggle over Gabriela Sabatini.

The fans cheered Courier to defeat Tuesday. They rubbed it in with a loud, cruel cry — "bye, bye, Jimmy" — before the final point. Never did U.S. Open fans seem so pleased to see an American lose and a Frenchman win.

They roared for the slender, smiling Pioline as his blistering backhands sent Courier scurrying corner to corner. They oohed and aahed at his dozen aces. They loved his touch volleys and over-heads and his calmness under pressure.

And when it was over, when Courier and his snarling, cursing and racket-dropping had nowhere else to go, Pioline had a 7-5, 6-7 (7-4) 6-4, 6-4 victory over the world's top-ranked player.

Hours later, it was Becker's turn. He had the crowd behind him. He seemed ready to make another trademark comeback from two sets down as he did in the first round and seven times



A surprised Boris Becker (AFP photo)

before. But his once mighty serve failed him to the end he, too, was gone against a stranger, losing to Sweden's Larsson 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.

"I thought a train hit me," Becker said. "I guess to come back again from two sets to love down was a little bit too much for me tonight. I was the opposite of being nervous. In a fourth-round match, at night before a full house, you should be nervous. Today, I was very calm, almost flat out there."

Larsson, a clay specialist who played in only six hard-court

tournaments this year, out-aced Becker 15-10. Becker double-faulted eight times to the Swede's one.

If Becker's loss was stunning, Courier's was historic. The last time a Frenchman beat the No. 1 seed at the U.S. Championships was 1927, when Rene Lacoste toppled Bill Tilden.

Courier, who will lose his No. 1 ranking if Pete Sampras reaches the final, dug himself into trouble with his mistakes in this match as much as his arrogance toward the public.

Despite Courier's success this

year — the Australian Open title, the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon — his increasingly churlish behaviour on and off the court is endearing him to no one. He chalked up the crowd's cheers for the No. 15 Pioline to a typical American desire for an upset.

"Everybody loves the underdog," Courier said.

But it seemed deeper and nastier than that. When Courier was down two sets to one, the crowd didn't get behind him, didn't try to lift him as it did Jimmy Connors or John McEnroe in the past or Martina Navratilova in her loss Monday. This Open has been filled with upsets, but all the big names who have fallen were cheered to the end — except Courier.

Immediately after Pioline's victory, a brief thunder and lightning storm struck, as if to punctuate the moment. When the storm passed, Women's No. 1 Graf shakily advanced to the semifinals with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory over 1990 champion and No. 5 seed Sabatini.

"I'm always very critical of myself," Graf said. "I think we both could have played better. My serve was not on at all. And I think she could do more damage as well."

Graf appeared in good shape, serving to end the match at 5-3 in the second set. But Sabatini suddenly played more daringly. She broke, then saved off match point on her own serve and took the set by winning four straight games.

"I just didn't play aggressive enough," Graf said. "I told myself to go for it in the third set."

Graf, winner of the French Open and Wimbledon, will play

Maleeva-Fragniere, who beat Kimiko Date 7-5, 7-5. Maleeva-Fragniere, playing what she says will be her final Open at age 26, has been winning despite having chipped a bone in her pinky last week in practice before her third-round match.

"Every match I have won here has been a dream, from the last three matches, since I broke my finger," she said. "I still cannot realise it. It seems so incredible that I am in the semifinals."

"I thought, if there is a God up there, why is he doing this to me? And now I see why he did it. Maybe this is the way he made me play better." — Maleeva-Fragniere said, on her dream come true of winning three matches in a row since breaking her finger and reaching the semifinals.

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"People like gimmicks," said Brad Gilbert, who lost in the fourth round of the U.S. Open to No. 12 seed Thomas Muster of Austria. "All these different names — the viper and the venom — these things breed competition. People want to have better for cheaper, it's always the 'new, improved.'"

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& YAMAM USMICH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K62 ♠A1074 ♠82 ♠K1087

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 2♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner must have a fair six-card spade suit and reasonable values to overcall freely at the two-level. It looks as if your hands are going to fit well, and we would not want to put partner under pressure. Bid four spades.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ5 ♠AS ♠KJ104 ♠A7

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Friends of Archaeology trip to Morocco

FOA announces that the new date for the Morocco trip is

October 20 - October 28

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Cut off date for partial payment is Sept. 15 on a first-come first-served basis.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The nursery class in the ICS still has a limited number of places for children from 3 to 4 years old of any nationality. Children do not need to be able to speak English.

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	CONCORD CONCORD 1 MY GIRL CONCORD 2 LAST ACTION HERO SHOWS: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15	PLAZA Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	PHILADELPHIA Robert Redford Demi Moore — in INDECENT PROPOSAL A special show for children at 11 a.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays Problem Child 2 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Nabil Al Makhadm Theatre presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalalaj, Hassan Al Sheer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians. Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day.	AHLAN THEATRE Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: Arab Summit Conference

U.S. team arrives in Jordan to study impact of sanctions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American delegation arrived here Wednesday for talks with Jordanian officials on the impact of the sanctions against Iraq on the Kingdom's economy.

The team is headed by State Department inspector and career diplomat David Newton and includes officials from the Treasury Department and Pentagon. The delegation's visit comes in realization of a promise made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his talks with His Majesty King Hussein in the course of a Middle East mission in August.

The State Department said in a statement issued Tuesday: "Following recent visits by King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister (Abdul Salam Al) Majali to Washington, D.C., and by Secretary Christopher to Amman, the United States is sending a team to Jordan this week to continue our discussions with Jordanian officials on ways to enhance enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq by the government of Jordan."

"The team will also discuss with Jordanian officials possible ways to ameliorate the negative economic consequences of strict enforcement, without in any way compromising the integrity of enforcement mechanisms."

"We will, of course, consult with the United Nations and our allies in our findings and ideas before taking any action which might affect activities governed by United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Jordanian sources said the government had prepared a "comprehensive" report to be submitted to the American delegation. The report, drawn up by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), contains the various negative consequences of the sanctions on Jordan, including lost revenues and additional economic burdens.

"The overzealous enforcement

of the inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping is one of the key elements in the report," said one of the sources, noting that such inspections have led to economic losses for Jordan's public as well as private sectors in terms of additional freight and insurance costs as well as costly delays.

One of the ideas expected to be raised during the American delegation's talks here is "self-monitoring" of the sanctions against Iraq.

Under the proposal, Jordan will ensure that no goods in violation of the sanctions enter or leave Iraq through Jordanian territory or, and such an arrangement could do away with or reduce the inspection on high seas of ships heading for and leaving Aqaba.

It was not known how the Americans viewed the proposal. In mid-1992, Jordan turned down a U.S. suggestion that international observers be deployed in the Kingdom's territory, saying such a move would be a violation of its sovereignty and would raise question marks on the credibility of its international undertakings.

Since then, however, Jordanian-American relations have improved considerably and very little traces remain of the strain caused by the Gulf crisis and American accusations that contraband goods were reaching Iraq through Jordan.

The Clinton administration has certified to Congress that Jordan is adhering to the sanctions and that the administration was taking the Kingdom's assurances seriously.

Such certification has cleared the way for releases of American aid to Jordan.

Finance Minister Sami Gammo told businessmen Monday that the government had made all arrangements for the American delegation to "meet all concerned government and private sector institutions" so that the team could get a clear picture of Jordan's losses from the sanctions on Iraq.



PRO-PEACE RALLY: Supporters play bagpipes and hold portraits of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the late Ahd Jibad during a rally in Hebron Wednesday in favour of the autonomy agreement with Israel (AFP photo)

Arab League says economic boycott of Israel will remain

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League said Wednesday that its 42-year-old economic boycott of Israel will remain until all occupied Arab territory is returned, including East Jerusalem.

"The boycott was established because of the Israeli occupation, and they know it will not be removed until the occupation ends," Adnan Omran, the league's deputy secretary-general, said.

"Peace cannot happen until there is a complete withdrawal from every inch of Arab territory occupied after 1967, including Arab Jerusalem."

The boycott was formally established in 1951, banning Arab trade with any company dealing with Israel. The goal was to disable the economy of the Jewish state and end the occupation of Palestine.

The 21-member league runs the boycott from the Boycott of Israel Bureau in Damascus. The trade rules have been widely ignored for years, partly because major Arab trading partners Germany and the United States forbid their nationals from honoring the boycott.

Mr. Omran said the proposed agreement for limited Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho does not constitute a peace treaty between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an Arab League member. He also pointed out that no Arab country has proposed to end the boycott.

Egypt broke the boycott after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the first and only one between an Arab country and the Jewish state.

Kuwait officially withdrew from the boycott in June. Saudi Arabia said after the 1990-91 Gulf war that it would add no new names to the blacklist. Other Gulf countries started quietly ending strict adherence after the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid that started the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Israel should not expect the boycott to be removed altogether just because it recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation and grants self-rule to Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho," said a Gulf-based boycott official, who requested anonymity.

"But I expect the indirect boycott to be eased gradually, not under a collective decision but as an individual initiative. I think this will encourage Israel to relax its position and offer more for peace."

Israel says the boycott has cost it nearly \$50 billion while many companies from the United States and other Western countries have also suffered after they were blacklisted by Arab states for dealing with it.

Under the direct boycott, Arab states stopped all forms of dealing with Israel while the indirect boycott affected foreign companies operating in Israel, having branches there, and those providing aid to the Jewish state. The blacklist also included firms in which Israeli companies have shares.

Ships flying the Israeli flag or calling on Israeli ports and all pro-Israeli publications have also been banned in the Arab world. "The Israeli-PLO accord virtually means an end to their war

but Israel remains technically at war with other Arab countries until they sign a similar agreement," an Arab boycott official said.

"I do not think there will be any decision to end the direct boycott until its cause — the Israeli occupation of Arab land — disappears," he said.

"But there could be a relaxation in the indirect boycott. As was the case with South Africa, I believe the taboo of dealing with Israel will break gradually."

Wealthy Gulf Arab states have been under pressure by the United States to ease the sanctions against Israel on the grounds the ban hampered U.S. trade with the region as many American firms were blacklisted.

Hundreds of other U.S. and Western companies have also been forced to end dealing with Israel to regain access to the lucrative Arab market, which receives more than 60 per cent of its imports from the West.

The Arab boycott officials said ending the direct and indirect siege would largely benefit Israel but would harm Arab states.

"Israel is much more advanced than Arab countries and its industrial production is huge compared with that in Arab states," one official said.

"Ending the boycott means Israel will find a vast outlet for its products and Israeli companies or firms related to Israel can set up industrial projects in Arab states," he said. "This will hit Arab industries as they will be less competitive. I think Arabs will pay the price of removing the boycott."

Minister reaffirms Jordan's stand to Russian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday held talks with Victor Pasavalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department, and reaffirmed Jordan's support for the independent Palestinian decision under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Mr. Pasavalyuk, who arrived here from Syria earlier in the day, is Russia's top expert on the Middle East peace process and his talks in Damascus and Amman dealt with the recent Palestinian autonomy agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as telling the Russian official that the agreement was the beginning of solutions to all crucial issues in

the Middle East peace process, including the status of Jerusalem. Mr. Pasavalyuk underlined Jordan's key role in the peace process and said his visit was aimed at following up the recent developments in the region and seeking means to boost the peace process.

In a statement to Petra, the Russian official noted that the PLO accord had endorsed the Israel-PLO accord and was keen to listen to Jordan's views on the subject.

Russia, which cosponsors the peace process with the U.S., will exert all efforts to achieve success in the effort for peace in the Middle East, he said.

A spokesman for the Russian embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times that Mr. Pasavalyuk was carrying a message from the Russian leadership to the Jordanian leadership.

He did not give details.

Exiles rejoice over return home of 189

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel rejoiced with cheers, hugs and some tears when Israel named 189 allowed to return Thursday after nearly nine months in South Lebanon.

Expellees swarmed around a 70-year-old Lebanese civilian ordered by the Israeli army to take a list of those being allowed back to their tent camp on a hillside three kilometres north of Israel's frontlines.

Anxious to see if who would be going back, nearly all 396 men ran to Assad Abu Samsam when he drove in on Wednesday. They celebrated as their leader Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi read out the names.

"I'm thrilled to hear I'm going back but this is mixed with pain because my elder brother Munir has to stay," said Mohsen Al Masawadi, 28, with tears in his eyes. Israel will allow the remaining exiles to return in December.

"They threw us here like into a grave, into the cold and snow. But people helped us and we learned patience," he added.

They have languished in a barren border in South Lebanon. Lebanon refused to take them, saying it would not become a dumping ground for Palestinians expelled by Israel.

After they heard the news Wednesday, many joyously sang the famous old tune "Biladi, Biladi."

Some performed the dabkeh folk dance on the rocky slope where they have been camped in tents since Israel expelled them in the middle of a bitterly cold winter.

Most of the men belong to the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement. Others are associated with the Islamic Jihad in Palestine movement. Israel expelled them in retaliation for last year's killing of six Israeli troops, which it blamed on Palestinian fundamentalists.

Israeli troops opened the Zommaraya gate on the southeastern edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon to let

the messenger drive his black Mercedes into the camp.

Dr. Rantisi told Mr. Abu Samsam: "Tell them (the Israelis) we've accepted."

Mr. Abu Samsam drove back to the zone through the Zommaraya gateway as exiles gathered around Dr. Rantisi in the camp's tent-mosque to inquire about those allowed to return.

Dr. Rantisi read the Arabic language letter to the men. It listed the names of the 189 allowed to return Thursday and instructions of how and when they should approach the Zommaraya crossing.

The letter said the exiles, each allowed to take only one suitcase of clothes, washing equipment and documents, must cross individually when their names are called. It said Israeli buses would be waiting for them at Zommaraya at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) Lebanon time.

There has been no word on whether all will be allowed to return home or whether, as many of them have feared, they would be jailed in Israel.

Nevertheless, the exiles hugged and kissed men whose names were on the list.

New truck seats were distributed to the 189 returnees. Some of those who were to leave took snapshots of friends who would stay behind at the Marj Al Zohour camp, two kilometers north of Zommaraya passage-way.

Dr. Omar Ferwana, not among the returnees, said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would be given a list on Friday of 65 sick men among the 207 left behind.

The ICRC, which organised the return in two batches of 19 sick exiles or men expelled by mistake, would then ask for any urgent cases to be evacuated to hospitals inside Israel.

The exiles say they were forced to agree to the Israeli offer to take them back in stages as many had fallen ill and their stay in Lebanon failed to stop peace talks.

PLO wants its security forces to have machineguns

By Saad Hattar
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants security forces which will control autonomous zones in the Gaza Strip and Jericho to be armed like ground forces worldwide, a PLO official said on Wednesday.

"The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), scattered in Arab countries, is to become a 'national security force' within the framework of the self-rule accord on the Gaza Strip and Jericho," the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

"These forces would be equipped with light weapons, machineguns and short-range cannons," he added.

He said the force should have the "full gear used by ground forces worldwide, except for tanks and jetfighters."

Under the self-rule arrangement, PLA units deployed in Jordan — estimated at roughly 2,000 men — would redeploy in Jericho while units stationed in Egypt, Sudan and Yemen would move to the Gaza Strip.

Iraq-based troops would either deploy in Jericho or in Gaza.

The official said there were roughly around 30,000, lightly-armed PLA troops throughout the Arab World. He said nearly 10 per cent of the troops would become an active police force.

The PLA was formed by Arab League decree in 1964. It is administered by the PLO. Currently the PLA troops carry out escort

missions for PLO officials. Under the auspices of the Jordanian police, the PLA initiated three months ago training programmes in which cadres receive "special training and martial arts exercises," the official said.

He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat inaugurated the graduation ceremony of the first batch of 800 trainees during his visit last week to Jordan. The courses are to continue until the PLA troops move on "to Palestinian soil."

The Jordanian police also trained 35 policemen from the Israeli-occupied territories to become bodyguards. They are now ready to protect Palestinian officials and guard the "Orient House" in East Jerusalem — the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating team at the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The military attaché of the Palestinian office in Jordan, Ali Bdeiri, told AFP that the new force will be entrusted with "maintaining order and security and ensuring that Palestinians can live in peace like the rest of the world."

On Tuesday, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin said he expected Palestinians to succeed more than Israelis in maintaining order in the sprawling, highly-populous Gaza Strip.

The agreement struck between Israel and the PLO stipulates that internal security would be in the hands of a Palestinian interim authority, while external security affairs would remain with Israel.

Pilot's finger restored after crash

HEMET, Calif. (AP) — Pilot Robert Dentice made a safe emergency landing on a busy highway, but while he was directing traffic around his ultralight aircraft the propeller lopped off part of one of his fingers. Bystanders found the piece of finger and Mr. Dentice, 62, underwent surgery to reattach it at Methodist Hospital of Southern California in Arcadia. Mr. Dentice and a friend, Raymond Britton, took off Monday in two ultralights, which resemble motorised hang gliders, authorities said. Mr. Dentice had engine trouble and, because of rugged terrain, had to land on a highway packed with traffic, said Riverside County Sheriff's Sgt. Nick Gnatsek. After landing, he began trying to push the ultralight off the road. But as he waved passing cars around it, the still-spinning propeller cut off his right index finger above the second knuckle, Gnatsek said.

Queen Elizabeth to visit Caribbean

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will visit eight countries in the Caribbean in late February and early March next year. Buckingham Palace announced. The queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Anguilla, Dominica, Guyana, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda, all of which are members of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth is head of state of Anguilla, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

Devotees flock to see Virgin Mary

AGOO, Philippines (R) — Thousands of Filipinos braved monsoon rains and flocked to this northern town Wednesday, hoping to see what a visionary claims to be another apparition of the Virgin Mary. Men, women and children from various parts of the Philippines — some barefoot, some with crutches — trekked up a hill where the Virgin Mary was believed to have appeared several times over the past few months. About 4,000 devotees were reciting prayers on the hill while several thousand others tried to get as close to the site where Mary is to appear. The crowd is expected to swell as the day goes on. The road leading to Apparition Hill was lined with stalls selling soft drinks, snacks, and calendars bearing the face of the Virgin Mary as well as religious amulets. "It is my second time here. I did not see anything then but I hope to see her," 36-year-old Marissa Basbas said. "Even if I don't see her, I still believe in her."

Judge: Lesbian unfit to bring up her own child

RICHMOND, Virginia (AFP) — A judge ruled a lesbian unfit to be a mother and awarded custody of her two-year-old son to the grandmother, sparking angry protests from gay rights activists. Kay Bottoms, 42, argued in the custody case that Tyler Doughton would not know the difference between men and women if he were to grow up with her daughter Sharon Bottoms, 23, and her lover April Wade, Judge Buford Parsons upheld a juvenile court's ruling in March removing the child from his mother, who admitted in court to having engaged in oral sex, which is a felony in Virginia. Judge Parsons ruled that Sharon's homosexual relationship "renders her an unfit parent," and considered her conduct "immoral." According to a 1985 Virginia Supreme Court ruling, a parent's homosexuality is a legitimate reason for losing custody. The father of the child was not involved in the case.

Tourists visit deep-frozen wife

ANGERS, France (AFP) — A French doctor is welcoming tourists to his 17th century chateau near here, with the highlight of the tour being the deep-frozen body of his wife who he hopes will one day come back to life. Retired gynaecologist Raymond Martinot, 71, needs the tourists' cash to help pay for his experiment and to repair his crumbling mansion in the wine-producing Loire Valley village of Nueil-sur-Layon. His "sleeping beauty" wife, Monique, died suddenly at the age of 49 in 1984 and Martinot has kept her remains ever since in a deep-freeze in the chateau's crypt at minus 54 Celsius. On the walls of the crypt, Martinot has pinned instructions on how to bring Monique back to life along with part of his will where he says he wants to be laid to rest by her side when he dies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian writer Zaki Naguib Mahmoud dies

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian philosopher and writer Zaki Naguib Mahmoud, whose articles and books were widely read in the Arab World, died Wednesday of complications from diabetes. He was 88. Mahmoud suffered from diabetes for years and had been in a hospital for a week before he died, a spokesman at Al Safa hospital told the Associated Press. Mahmoud wrote extensively in books and articles about Arab cultural and political affairs. He recently finished his autobiography, "The Harvest of the Years." The Egyptian writer was educated in Egypt and obtained his doctorate from the University of London. He lectured in universities in the United States and was stationed in Washington as Egypt's cultural attaché in 1951-1955. Mahmoud is survived by his wife.

U-boat in Black Sea mine still a mystery

ISTANBUL (AFP) — A German submarine recently discovered silted up in a coal mine on the edge of the Black Sea is still shrouded in mystery with the only evidence found indicating it was built at the turn of the century. A spokesman for the German embassy in Ankara said Tuesday he had asked authorities in Bonn for information concerning any submarines that could have sunk in that region. The vessel was uncovered Saturday during excavation work in the mine of Kemerkurgaz on the European side of the Black Sea coast, some 40 kilometres from Istanbul. A copper plaque engraved in German found in a torpedo tube raised the probability that it was a German U-boat built in 1902. The German embassy here has not been commenting on any of the scenarios raised by the local press concerning the sinking of the vessel. One theory is that the submarine was sunk by the British warship Majestic in 1915. Another theory is that the vessel hit a Russian mine. Elderly residents from the village of Akpinar, located near the coal mine, have told the Turkish press that they witnessed in World War I a battle in that region between the Russian and German navy. The witnesses said the bodies of many German sailors washed up on the Black Sea shore after a big explosion. Military sources said Tuesday the human bones and some plates had been discovered in the area and that excavation was continuing under heavy military guard.

Convicted child molester hanged in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A Palestinian man, found guilty of molesting and subsequently murdering a five-year-old boy, was hanged in a public square at daybreak Wednesday. The state-controlled media identified the convict as Mohammad Hussein Dayab, 39, a gardener from the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp. He was hanged in the Al Abasseen Square in the heart of Damascus. The young victim was identified as Mahmoud Al Dayab. The boy, who was Palestinian or a Syrian, was 5 years old. Dayab committed the crime, said Dayab committed crimes to give him money, abused him and then strangled him with a belt. It was not clear how Dayab was arrested, and the media did not give any details of his trial. Al Baath said that during the interrogation, he admitted he had "assaulted another minor in the same room several times." It did not disclose the identity and age of the other victim.

Algiers court condemns five to death

ALGIERS (R) — An Algiers court has sentenced five more Muslim militants to death on charges including setting up a "terrorist" group, armed holdups, murder and inciting insurrection. A government newspaper reported on Wednesday. The court sentenced to death five men, including Mohammed Benahar and Mohamed Abdelkader, who were in court to hear their death sentences read this week while Saad Saadat and Al Hadj Halis were tried and condemned in their absence. They were among 27 men on trial in Algiers special court, one of three set up to combat a wave of violence blamed on armed Muslim militants.

Entry of 60 Gazans said restricted

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan has restricted the entry of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, underlining the Kingdom's fear of a massive Palestinian exodus during a self-rule period in the Israeli-occupied territories, officials said Wednesday.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said since Monday Jordan had been turning away Gaza residents at the King Hussein Bridge, which links the Kingdom with the occupied West Bank.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said that on Tuesday, "about 60 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, carrying Egyptian laissez-passeurs, were not allowed to proceed into Jordanian territory."

Between 1948 and 1967, Egypt administered the Gaza Strip and provided travel documents to its Palestinian inhabitants.

"Jordan is strictly supervising the entry of Palestinians into the country," the official said. "This measure was in coordination with, and with the consent of, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

He said the agreement was reached during an Aug. 24 meeting of the border and security affairs committee, which was formed July 10 and consist of Jordanian and PLO officials.

That committee, along with five others, is discussing matters pertaining to the Palestinians during a proposed five-year interim period of self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian move came amid fears that a PLO-Israeli deal on partial Palestinian autonomy could backfire, leading to an exodus of Palestinians from the Kingdom, which has a majority Palestinian population.

The deal, reached in secret negotiations in Norway, foresees an Israeli pullout from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho within six months.

King Hussein has unequivocally supported the deal.

African leaders announce Sudan, Somalia initiative

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Six African nations have announced a new initiative to end a 10-year war in southern Sudan, state-run Ethiopian radio said Wednesday.

The broadcast said the move was decided by presidents of Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Uganda and Eritrea during a summit of the inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development.

Somalia, the seventh member of the authority, was not represented at the summit because it has no government.

The broadcast said the presidents established a committee to conduct negotiations between Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has split into four factions.

All the countries are neighbours of Sudan. President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan was quoted as saying the new initiative did not necessarily mean an end to unfruitful mediation by Ibrahim Bahangida, Nigeria's former president.

General Babangida would be informed of the new initiative and asked if he was still willing to continue his peace-making effort, Gen. Bashir said, according to the broadcast.

In a two-page declaration at the end of a one-day summit Tuesday, the presidents also appealed to the international community to "address the Somali situation with a view to restore peace in the war-ravaged country."

At a news conference later, Gen. Bashir differed with his colleagues, saying the tragedy in Somalia could have been avoided if "we Africans had taken the necessary measures ourselves."

"The ideal solution is purely African mechanism with African finance," Gen. Bashir said.

On the main agenda of the summit, the presidents announced a five-year regional plan of cooperation in food security, environment protection, energy and communications.

The region borders the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and is